

I am in opposition of SB 857. These regulations would strip safe and socially distant outdoor opportunities for hundreds of families along the Willamette River during these strange times. I grew up on the Willamette River and I would hate to have it ripped away from not only me but my friends, family and all other water loving enthusiasts out there. Banning wake boats over only 4,000 lbs from the Upper Willamette destroys boating opportunities and adds to congestion and safety issues in other bodies of water. Placing higher enforcement of current regulations should be the first step, rather than jumping to an all out ban on tow boats and sports. These bills will destroy small businesses that depend on the river. I work at active water sports and these bills will potentially take that job away from me and others that work there. I have built a name for myself in the boating industry and I can't accept that it's trying to be taken away from me. I live minutes from the river because I spend most of my time there, not only to wakeboard, waterski and surf, but also to fish and recreate with friends. The answer to issues that are happening need to be found through equal efforts to use the river in cohesive ways not banning boating altogether. If there were proper record keeping of shorelines along the Willamette I would think they would be presented, but they have not been. The entire boating community has shared their desire to make effort to protect both our waterways and our rights to the waterways, and we are willing to make progressive changes. Please consider my voice and hear me and others who wish to continue to enjoy life on the water. Thank you.