

Chair Wagner and members of the committee,

My name is Matt Radich, I am an avid user of the Willamette River and the president of Active Water Sports, an Oregon small business.

I am here today to voice my passionate opposition to Senate Bill 857; It is misguided, overreaching and will have detrimental effects on waterway access, waterway safety and Oregon small businesses. It is, in the simplest terms, an unnecessary and punitive ban on family recreation.

This bill is a copy of the house bill introduced and championed by Representative Brad Witt. For good reasons it failed to make it out of his own committee. I am asking each one of you on this committee to be thoughtful and critical when considering this bill.

Here are just a few things to think about:

- The activities that would be restricted are something Oregonians want to do: There are currently over 40,000 registered recreational power boats in Oregon. Have you considered how this will affect the user group as a whole?
- Almost two-thirds of the boats operating under the current Towed-sports endorsement in the Newberg Pool will lose access to that area if this bill passes
- Hundreds of riverfront homeowners in this area have not seen increased erosion on their banks and oppose these regulations. They specifically purchased their homes so they could participate in activities that would be banned by this bill.
- The new regulations set by the Marine Board have only been in place for one season > In the 20 miles of river we are addressing here, you can only wake surf on 3 of those miles, the other 17 miles effectively have a zero-pound weight limit. Why do we need more restricted areas?
- Why has there not been more efforts to better enforce the existing rules?
- If we are doing this for environmental reasons, we should be talking about all boats. Why are towed-sports boats being singled out?
- If we are doing this for safety reasons, have you considered how safety will be drastically reduced in other areas that will become more congested? Have you reached out to the various river patrols that will be affected?
- Why was there no outreach to the boating community when these bills were being written?
- What other alternatives been looked in to?

This is just a brief list of the many questions that should be answered before moving forward with a bill that is this restrictive.

There is absolutely no reason to rush into this and adopt bad policy. We have offered many times in the past to be a resource and work as a members of a group to come up with viable and cooperative solutions. None of the proponents of this bill have ever reached out to anyone in the boating community.

I urge you to stop these bills and begin a new path where we can work together to come up with cooperative, long-term solutions.

Thank you,

Matt Radich

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