

Senator Wagner,

Thank you for the professional, respectful way that you conducted your hearing on SB 857 this afternoon.

This is a bad bill for a variety of reasons that I wish I would have had time to share in testimony today.

The direct example of why this legislation was created out of vindictiveness specifically toward wakeboarders and wake surfers rather a true concern for the environment, docks, the river bank or fish and I am hopeful you will share with the committee is as follows;

SB 857 is aimed at preventing people with a boat in excess of 4000lbs from obtaining a "Towed Water Sports Certificate"; it doesn't ban the use of this boat on the river. A boater is only required to have this certificate if they wish to wakeboard or wake surf.

SECTION 2. ORS 830.649 is amended to read: 830.649. (1) As used in this section, "Newberg Pool Congested Zone" means the portion of the Willamette River beginning at river mile 30 and ending at river mile 50. (2) A person shall carry a towed watersports endorsement if the person is: (a) Engaged in [wake surfing or wakeboarding as defined by the State Marine Board] towed watersports;

Should this bill pass; a person with a 7000lb boat will still be permitted to load up with equipment, coolers and 10 people and pull kids on a tube, kneeboard, and other water toys up and down the river all day long and this Senate Bill does nothing to address the activity or wake that or any other boat is creating. What they have done is ban the sports via banning boater access to the certificate which is now required to perform these two specific sports!

For whatever reason (or maybe several reasons) these groups have tried to ban the sports of wakeboarding and wake surfing for years without success. They have been successful in taking these boaters rights away 1 piece at a time. Requiring this specific boater to have more education, spend additional fees and take additional steps that no other boaters are required in the state on any other body of water. Travel significant distances each way in order to be in a specific designated "zone" where no homes or docks exist.

There has never been a conversation with the spirit of finding an agreeable solution; those opposed to wake sports have wanted to ban these two specific sports and the people participating in these sports for over a decade. Since they have been unsuccessful in banning the sport; they are trying to attack the requirement to access the certificate that permits a boater to perform the sport! They are not removing the boat they suggest they are so concerned is causing all the damage to the banks and habitat.

If successful in passing this legislation, they'll be back for the tubers and kneeboarders next round until they have ultimately succeeded in stripping the rights of citizens to responsibly recreate in a power boat on the Willamette River.

I respectfully ask you to vote NO on SB 857.

Thank you again for your consideration.

Best Regards,

Randy Harris