

I am a supporter of SB857 and the weight limit.

Here's why.

I've been boating this part of the river for 40 years. 20 years ago, boats over 4000 pounds for recreation didn't even exist.

Then the sport of wake boarding started to take off. People figured out that the more people I put in the back of the boat, the bigger the wake became.

Then someone came up with the idea of water sacks that you could put in the boat and fill with water with a portable pump. You could add 1000 pounds in addition to the

extra people. That became a popular thing to do about 10-15 years ago, when people living along the river started to notice their banks eroded at an unusually fast rate.

Even the Marine Board agreed that a problem was developing, they banned these water sacks or even piling on extra people in the back of the boat.

Then boat manufacturers came up with these water tanks built directly into the hull of the boat, filled with the push of a button. No way for anyone to know if you had it.

Enforcement became impossible, and the erosion problem became bigger.

By setting a 4000 pound limit, we can take it back to the time when water sacks or tanks weren't in use and the river was undamaged by these wake boats.