

I am submitting testimony to oppose SB 857. This legislation is born out of special interest agendas and is not representative of the community at large.

My wife and I both vehemently oppose this SB857. It's been brought forth by special interest groups with zero legitimate science to back it. Banning an entire user group from enjoying a river without performing any due diligence is literally laughable and anyone supporting this should be ashamed of themselves. This issue has brought to light the SEVERE lack of enforcement on the river and highlights many issues that need to be addressed prior to taking such measures (education and enforcement of all rules for all users, not just boaters). Please, make the state's choice and send this bill packing. Instead, support a year-long study of the river and wave effects. Then we can revisit such a bill.

Our waterway policies should be grounded in solid research and favor the general public, not select waterfront homeowners and paddlers looking to eliminate motorized boating for their own personal gain. Real studies should be conducted to determine the best ways to keep the river safe and healthy. Furthermore, the Newberg Pool is already one of the most regulated bodies of water in Oregon, and wake surfing is only allowed in two small zones with no adjacent homes.

This bill will make our waterways less safe and negatively impact Oregon families and small businesses. The House already extensively debated this bill and did not move forward. I respectfully urge you to do the same. Oregon needs our senators focused on COVID, economic recovery, and getting our kids back in school. Please do not waste time on this unnecessary legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Keith Clinton