

Dear Senator Wagner and committee members -

Please support SB 857 and help those who believe in balancing recreation and the environment. This bill will bring sanity to a problem that should have been regulated many years ago when boats began getting bigger by the minute. Currently, the average boat weight is around 5000 lbs. This bill asks for boat weight to be regulated at 4000 lbs. It seems reasonable to a set policy based on the average boat weight, not the current rule set by the Oregon State Marine Board of 10000 lbs. The 10000 lb weight is simply ridiculous! If boats continue on the manufactures trajectory of weight, it is inevitable that 10 years from now they'll be producing on average 10000 lb boats and the destruction will be beyond repair to the river. Please consider the future of the river! If you don't, who will? I can tell you, it won't be the boating industry and those who own wake boats. The boating industry is soli designed to make a profit. If the boating industry truly cared about Oregon and the Willamette River, they would be spending their funds on research and restoration instead of lobbyist and public relations.

Your support of SB 857 will send a message to all Oregonians that the Willamette River waterway is a place that can be enjoyed with many activities for families while sustaining it's environment.

Mauro Hernandez