

June 2, 2021

Dear Senators,

I am writing to ask your support for SB 857: Protect the Willamette River.

As a fifteen year resident along the Willamette River, I have witnessed and continue to see the alarming increase in environmental damage and decrease in the safety of river users caused by the massive high energy wakes produced by these boats.

SB 857 does not shut down boating in Oregon. Extreme wake producing boats should be used only in areas where they have a minimal impact on the river environment and do not endanger other river users. Only the heaviest of boats, specifically designed to create massive waves, will be required to travel to wider and more appropriate bodies of water. The Greenway will also be off-limits to the addition of external wake enhancing devices.

Out of State boat manufacturers and their lobbyists want to stop SB 857 (Max loading weight) from moving forward this session.

They state that all motorized boating is being banned on Oregon waterways. This is not true. Any boater with a towed water sports decal will still be able to participate in towed water sports.

Please support SB 857-1 this session. It is a reasonable compromise.

Thank you for your service and support,

Arlene Kavlock,
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