

I'm writing today in strong **opposition** to SB 857.

My husband, children and I have enjoyed the river in our backyard for 20 years. We have enjoyed paddle boarding, kayaking, swimming and boating on what we have called "our river" for all of those years.

We have picked up litter, hauled large trees and towed people who have run out of gas. That's what community does for each other and our home surroundings. We have a modest boat but one that will most likely be affected by this weight limit being proposed.

Using the 4000 lb number would eliminate most modern fishing boats, runabouts, pontoons, etc 20' and larger will be excluded from towing on the river since most of them are over 4000lbs.

Suggestions prior to taking away public waterways:

1. Perform a specified study (share cost with boating companies and special interest groups)
2. Have a mandatory "Riverbank Restore Day"
3. Educate
4. Let the new two year old legislation/restrictions go on to see if they are working.
5. Get unbiased without the emotion at a table to figure out a solution. This has NOT been done.
6. Increase policing. OSMB charges a new fee for all towers, they said it was going to the policing of the river. Not sure if it made it there.
7. Maybe have wakesurfing allowed certain months of the year. It is already only approx 3 months of the year.

It may seem like you are hearing plenty of feedback pushing for these regulations. Rest assured you are only hearing one side of the story as we, the boating community, have been pursuing rational responses such as boater and river user education and collaboration.

We need leadership and policy based on facts that defend and protect Oregonians access to water rights for all users and wildlife. Unbiased evidence with a reasonable plan needs to be applied with a substantial amount of time to see outcome.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Laurie & Mike Hieb
Wilsonville Or
laurie@orenews.com