

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.

I rent a moorage slip at Wilsonville and boat on the river several times per week. This bill is another example of discrimination against wakeboard by a special interest group who wants to turn the Willamette into a private waterway. We need education for all river users not just the current endorsement that singles out certain tower watersports. Tubers kayaks and paddlers should have to be educated too. These funds should go to increased enforcement of current rules.

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,

Michael Canaday