

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

We have lived on the river by the Butteville landing for the past 11 years. Every fall and winter the river rises 20-30 feet and is insanely swift moving. Moving large trees and debris that damage docks and cause the erosion on the riverbanks. Please see attached photos of the damage that occurs during the fall and winter.

Most of the days on the upper Willamette are very quiet with few boats. The busy days cause the turbidity seen in the pictures represented by the sponsors of this bill. They completely misrepresent what is happening on the river and have a big agenda to remove boats off the river. As stewards of the river, we also want to keep our waters safe and prevent erosion. We need to come to the table together to analyze unbiased data and find a balanced solution.

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,

Scott Putnam





