

I am writing you to oppose SB 857. This legislation is not representative of the community at large. I completely agree that this is a complex issue to solve. But at the current trajectory, powerboats will soon be an endangered species on the Willamette anywhere near Portland. I don't think enough is being done to find a balanced solution. For example, the rule that the OSMB just passed is a blanket "NO" to wake sports on the lower Willamette. What about mimicking the current rules in the Newberg pool where there are designated zones in which specific wake sports are allowed? For example, the stretch of river from the Clackamas river to the Cedar Oak boat ramp has limited docks, is fairly wide, and has a fairly robust shoreline. This would have been a great option for shared use. But the OSMB went with a hard "NO".

Senate Bill 857 will be a hard "NO" in the Newberg Pool. As a result of the OSMB and Senate Bill 857 there will be a severe restriction on wake sports on the Willamette river between miles 13 and 50.

Our waterway policies should be grounded in solid research and favor the general public, not select waterfront homeowners and paddlers looking to restrict towed water sports for their own personal gain. Real studies should be conducted to determine the best ways to keep the river safe and healthy. Local government agencies, hydrologists, geotechnical and civil engineers, ecologists and arborists all agree the lack of native vegetation and mismanagement of native trees is causing the majority of the erosion on the river, not towed water sports. 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 devastate families and small businesses in Aurora, Canby, Newberg, West Linn, Wilsonville and more. This is a duplicate bill that was already extensively debated and did not move forward. Please do not waste time on this unnecessary legislation. Oregon needs our representatives focused on COVID, economic recovery and getting our kids back in school. Thank you for your consideration.