

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.

Our waterway policies should be grounded in solid research and favor the 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 (HB2725). 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. This would void safe, socially distant, equitable, outdoor opportunities for hundreds of families along the Willamette and impact local small businesses.

This bill is not based on science. There is no empirical evidence that directly links perceived erosion on the riverbanks or dock damage to wake boats. Real studies should be conducted first to determine the best ways to keep the river safe and healthy.

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 not only exacerbates safety issues, but it also fails to solve a primary issue — enforcement. The state has already struggled to enforce the laws and rules we have, and the bills do not address how to deal with the worst offenders who make the river dangerous for everybody. I respectfully urge you to reject this proposal.

Sincerely,

Jacob Hanson  
Gresham