

Dear Rules Committee,

I'm writing this plea to ask that you support passage of SB 857A.

I believe it is imperative that boat size in the Newberg Pool be restricted to prevent continuing damage to the Willamette River's ecosystems, particularly the edge habitat near the shorelines. The **science is accurate and clear** – excessive turbidity in the water caused by heavily weighted boat wakes reduces available food for fish, impedes fish migration and other natural fish movements, prevents the development of fish eggs and insect larvae, and decreases fish resistance to disease.

The proposed weight limit in SB 857A would not unduly restrict towed water sports. The only towed watersport that requires massive wakes is wake surfing. Wakeboarding, tubing and skiing can all be enjoyed without using heavily weighted boats.

SB 857A is not “taking away summer water sports”, “shutting down the Willamette River Newberg Pool”, making that waterway “less safe”, or “destroying small businesses”. Relocating heavily weighted boats to a wider body of water in which large wakes dissipate before creating environmental damage is the **right thing to do**. People in the Portland metro area drive hours to the mountains to snow ski. This is no different. Those who want to engage in a specific water sport requiring massive wakes could merely drive an hour or less to the Columbia River.

This is a man-made problem that is increasing exponentially every year it continues. Man needs to implement a remedy before it's too late.

I'm counting on you to do the right thing.

Best regards,

Linda Pepler