

I am in support of SB857 with all amendments. I have been a boat owner for over 20 years. This bill is not about putting an end to water motor sports. It puts sensible limitations on them. If one needs to have a boat that will generate a wake that is 2 - 4 feet in size, on waterways where this type of wave does not occur, one has to ask if this is the right thing for the area.

I believe there is a time and a place for everyone to be able to be out and enjoying all that Oregon outdoors have to offer. These large wave generating boats also present safety hazards for those in smaller craft. I currently own a 24 foot pontoon boat. One of these passing wake boats generated a wake that hit us with such force, the wave came over the bow and engulfed our entire boat. Fortunately no one was injured, but I did have small children with me and the amount of water did wash towels and a cooler overboard. What if it had been a child?

People have off road, four wheelin vehicles. They are not permitted to just run and drive them wherever they like. There are limitations on when and where. Why don't we have the same thing with waterways?