

House Committee on Natural Resources

Chair Witt and members of the Committee,

My name is Matt Radich, I am the president of Active Water Sports, an Oregon boat dealer. I speak for all tow-boat dealers in Oregon and as a group, we oppose House Bill 2351. While I understand the intent of the bill, I am concerned about the long-term impacts and feel that if this bill is passed, towed-sports boaters could suffer a severe loss of access to useable waterways.

Together, the tow-boat dealers in Oregon directly generate over \$40 million in annual revenue. Passing any legislation that targets the use of the boats we sell will lead to a drastic loss of sales revenue for our market. This would further lead to a loss of jobs throughout Oregon tow-boat dealerships.

As stated in their mission, the Marine Board serves the recreational boating public. This bill would shift that to serving greenway plans that the Marine Board was not involved with developing. Passing this bill will put the Marine Board in a tenuous position, having to balance political pressure with what is best for boaters.

As tow-boat dealers we acknowledge that with the popularity of towed watersports, more boaters are on the water and more waves are being created. We know we must continue to educate boat operators and be a part of the solution in mitigating wave related issues.

We have already been working with the Marine Board to pass new regulations that will both lower wave energy at the river banks and give towed sports enthusiasts areas to enjoy the river. We have worked effectively with representatives from all sides of this issue and come up with real world solutions.

Proponents of this bill will be using this as a foothold to gain more traction towards removing tow boats from popular sections of the river, which absolutely should not happen.

I respectfully urge you to oppose House Bill 2351 to preserve boating access and avoid unintended negative consequences.

Thank you for your consideration,

Matt Radich
President
Active Water Sports, Inc
Beaverton, Oregon City and Canby, OR