

Watts Remy

From: Darby Collins <darbycollins@earthlink.net>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2019 5:45 PM
To: SENR Exhibits
Subject: In Support of HB2351

Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Chair Senator Michael Dembrow
Vice-Chair Senator Alan Olsen
Senator Cliff Bentz
Senator Floyd Prozanski
Senator Arnie Roblan

Re: In Support of HB 2351

Dear Chair Dembrow and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of HB 2351 that incorporates the Oregon State Marine Board into the state of Oregon's established Willamette Greenway regulations. Thank you for the opportunity. It is a true pleasure to support this legislation which will help further protect the Willamette River for future generations.

I currently live on the Willamette River in Wilsonville. I also serve as president of the Willamette Greenway Alliance (WGA) which represents a coalition of organizations working to protect and preserve the natural, scenic and recreational qualities of the Willamette River Greenway by advocating for policies which promote boater safety, protect property (docks, shoreline, habitat) and ensure recreation is environmentally sustainable.)

HB 2351 is a needed step to incorporate and empower the Oregon State Marine Board to protect sensitive shoreline and habitat through its mission of regulating boat operation allowing the Marine Board to better manage boat wake energy to protect shoreline, property, fish and wildlife habitat.

Research demonstrates that the capacity of the shoreline to withstand the energy levels being produced by more and bigger boats along portions of the Greenway was exceeded quite some time ago and that damage is increasing at a rate commensurate with increasing wave energy levels.

This legislation would give the Oregon State Marine Board clear authority to enact rules in support of the other state agencies and local governments that have been tasked to protect shoreline and habitat along the Willamette River under the Greenway legislation. It would also help bring about coordinated planning between Oregon Parks and Recreation, the Department of Land Conservation and Development and the Marine Board in managing the river and activities on the river. In a nutshell, it would help Oregon agencies better align to plan, protect and manage the Willamette River under Statewide Land Use Goal 15.

Over the past few years, increased boat traffic combined with larger and heavier boats being used for wake surfing have created a dangerous and destructive environment on the Willamette River. This is something that cannot be sustained. Something must be done to protect river banks, water quality, safety for motorized and non-motorized recreation and wildlife on the Willamette.

This legislation would empower a state agency — the Oregon State Marine Board — to work with other state agencies on boating activities in a coordinated manner to prevent continued damage to the Willamette. It gives OSMB give clear direction to operate within Greenway regulations and help save the river for future generations.

Therefore, I urge you to support HB2351.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Darby Collins

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