

Watts Remy

From: sue sandford <ssandford2@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 27, 2019 11:32 AM
To: SENR Exhibits
Subject: HB2351A re Increasing wake damage on the Willamette River

To: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair

Senator Alan Olsen, Co-Chair

Committee Members

By email

Subject: Increased wakes: damage and danger to river users, HB 2351A

I am writing to you to request your support for HB 2351A currently before the Oregon State Senate. HB 2351A gives the Oregon State Marine Board the local rulemaking authority to make regulations which align with other state agencies to protect the shoreline, marine habitat, and private property along the Willamette River Greenway. It will close a policy gap that allows a small class of river users to cause damage to whole sections of the river and imperil thousands of other users.

Living on a houseboat at the Portland Rowing Club has been my life for over 20 years. In the last few years, I've become more fearful of the damage caused by power boat wakes. I've been a water skier and wakeboarder for most of my life and understand how much fun these sports are but I also understand the absolute need to cause no damage and for rivers to be safe for all users. Our houses, the shoreline and marine docks are all being damaged. And the damage increases each year as more and more wakeboard boats are on the river.

Slow moving wakeboard boats are designed to create as large a wake as possible. And now that there is surfing behind these boats, there seems to be a goal of even bigger wakes. It doesn't help to have boats stay on the far side of the river. Sometimes this just creates even bigger waves.

Smaller boats, rowing shells and kayakers are in danger of capsizing with the increased wake sizes. I also see boats pulling someone come way to close to the smaller water craft and swimmers on the river.

The 200 foot rule provides necessary safety from speeding boats that sometimes are moving over 50 miles per hour. This rule does not solve the safety and damage issues caused by boats designed with deep hulls, surf wave-generating blades, shapers to extend wave length, and rear ballast bags that create higher waves.

We must find a way to prevent increasing shore erosion, safety degradation, and property damage caused by power boats, particularly wake boats. I appreciate your consideration and understanding of these concerns. I am sure that suitable, safe, wakeboarding locations can be found locally. Thousands of Willamette users will be grateful and the couple of hundred wake boarders will be able to enjoy the river in the knowledge they will not be harming anything or endangering others. I urge your support of this important bill.

Respectfully,

Sue Sandford

