

# Letter in Support of HB 4138

Dear Chair McLain and Committee Members,

I own a farm outside Newberg which has a half mile of Willamette River frontage. The property has been in the family since around 1959. We also have a boathouse and a runabout boat which we use on the river during the summer, so I am not writing this as an anti-boat person. I wrote a similar letter in support of HB 4099 which is oriented toward boat safety and enforcement concerns. This bill, HB 4138, is focused on the effects of the high energy wakes on the riverbanks and the resulting sedimentation of the river. HB 4138 is more of a big picture view of things. Aside from me griping as a landowner about my riverbank being undercut, as a citizen of the state I'm also asking why are we letting a public resource be degraded so a relatively small number of wake surfing enthusiasts have their way? This part of the river has steep banks made of soft soil. Vegetation is vital for holding the banks together. The high energy wakes produced by the wake surfing boats are very destructive. I have witnessed how the waves chew away at the banks. The banks and vegetation eventually cave into the water. The water near the shoreline is brown with sediment. I have made numerous attempts to contact the state DEQ about this issue. I could never get a solid answer. I was left with the impression that they didn't have the resources to handle it. I tried the Yamhill Soil Conservation Service. Dead end. Someone needs to take ownership of this problem and this bill assigns responsibility, at least as a starting point, to the Department of State Lands.

As a landowner and citizen concerned with the degradation of public resources, I urge you to support HB 4138.

Thank you,



Maria Hall, Willamette Farms

1.30.18