

*Friends of*  
**Historic Butteville**  
AN OREGON NONPROFIT CORPORATION

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February 6, 2018

Chair McLain and Transportation Committee Members

Friends of Historic Butteville is an Oregon nonprofit corporation that, among other things, is restoring the Historic Butteville Landing (see attachment). This right-of-way will provide public access to the Willamette River when complete, in a beautiful and historic setting. The site contains the Butteville Landing Footings, a SHPO-registered archaeological site.

We support HO 4138 because the Willamette River is a significant Oregon natural asset, and because the sport of wake boarding has become such that it a real environmental threat to the river ecosystem. Despite existing limited restrictions (no wake zones) and poorly coordinated County enforcement, the focus of the industry is to design and build boats that create massive wake waves and these waves create significant safety and environmental problems.

We acknowledge that the Willamette is an active and dynamic river (especially in the winter), but beyond that, significant erosion has been occurring at increasing rates since the advent of this sport, and especially in the past decade. We therefore support this bill to grant the Marine Board the authority to regulate waterways to protect against wake-induced bank erosion.

OSMB's own data states that they know large wakes cause destructive damage, but they are not granted the authority to regulate boating in terms of erosion. The Butteville Landing restoration will cost over \$250,000 and bank erosion at the river end of the Landing and damage to the archaeological remains are significant concerns. We have additional safety concerns for the general public as we complete a trail for river access and then install a mixed-use paddle craft dock.

Given the role of the Marine Board and the natural asset that is the Willamette River, it is only reasonable the OSMB be granted the authority to regulate boating in a way that includes erosion prevention.

Sincerely



Ben Williams, President



## HISTORIC BUTTEVILLE LANDING

Right: rough excavation Fall of 2017  
after brush and tree removal

Below: view from the river of old  
Butteville Landing Footings (SHPO  
archaeological site) at low water in July,  
2017

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