

## **Letter to the Senate Business and Transportation Committee in support of HB 4138**

Dated February 20, 2018

Sent via email to [sbt.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:sbt.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

Dear Senate Business and Transportation Committee:

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 pull water from the Willamette for irrigation of our filberts. We also have a boathouse and a runabout boat which we use on the river during the summer, so I am not writing this from a non-boater point of view. Obviously we have seen a lot of change on the river over these many years, but just in the past few years I have observed a higher impact on the riverbank due to the effect of wakes. Boats have been used on this stretch of the river, which is within the no wake enhancing device (WED) zone for generations. But the wakes being produced by specialized boats are very high energy and quite destructive to the shoreline. During the summer weekends, the wakes from these boat are almost non-stop, and the resulting erosion significant.

This bill, HB 4138, is focused on the effects of the high energy wakes on riverbank erosion and the resulting sedimentation of the river. This part of the river has steep banks made of soft soil. Vegetation is vital for holding the banks together. I have witnessed how the waves from high energy wakes 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. I started taking photos and iPhone movies and will continue to do so to help document the problem.

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. Hopefully the State will step up to protect this section of the Willamette.

Thank you for your consideration.

Maria Hall, Willamette Farms, Newberg

