

Please find my submission for your consideration of HB4138.

I live along the upper Willamette River and have observed the river for many years. I can tell you unequivocally that watercraft activity cause erosion in our waterways and in recent years we are seeing boats with larger and larger wakes that impact the shoreline significantly. This erosion causes significant damage to property owners living along the river (and other waterways). In addition to safety issues caused by large erosion events the financial impact to property owners is significant because of the extremely high cost of remediation and the limits placed on landowners to take preventative measures to protect their land from this erosion.

Currently, there is no govt. agency that is explicitly tasked with protecting our shores from the effects of boat caused erosion. This bill would allow the marine board and DSL to have explicit authority to consider erosion as a factor in making rules. If we want to protect our shorelines and continue to enjoy the Willamette River and other Oregon waterways for future generations we need to observe the effects that our activities have along the river and also to balance the use of the river with private property damage and conflict that may occur as a result.

I have attached a report from a geotechnical engineer that analyzes the soil on my property through a core sample that was drilled 40 feet deep. The geotechnical engineer reports that the soil composition along the Willamette River is loose sandy silt that does not offer any structure to protect itself from the effects of wave energy caused by boats as well as floods. This confirms my own observations regarding the significant ruts that continuous wakes make along the shoreline every year.

Please vote yes for HB 4138 so these effects can be understood and considered by the marine board. Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,

Don Fuchs
503.754.3824