

February 12, 2019

State of Oregon
House Committee on Natural Resources
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE, Room 347
Salem, OR 97301
Via email: hnr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Re: HB 2351 and HB 2352

Dear Chair Witt and Committee Members:

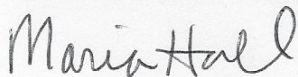
I am writing in support of both HB 2351 (compels Marine Board to consider and enact regulations as necessary to support Willamette River Greenway) and HB2352 (enhances towed watersports requirements for the Newberg Pool).

My background, briefly. I am the owner of a 200 acre farm (filberts and wine grapes) outside of Newberg which has roughly one half mile of the Willamette River as its southern boundary. My family has owned the property since 1959. We have a small boathouse on the water and have waterskied on and off on the Willamette River since the mid 1960's. We have first hand knowledge of the changes in boating on the river and how those uses have affected structures such as the dock and boathouse and most importantly, the banks and shores of the river. As farmers and landowners we feel we have been and wish to continue to be good stewards of the land.

Over the past 4-5 years I have noticed a large uptick in the number of wake boats using this section of the Willamette (Newberg Pool near Champoeg Park), particularly during the summer. I am well aware that the boats are modified to enhance wave height (energy). The wakes produced by these boats have caused damage to our dock, boathouse and boat while in the boathouse. More importantly from an environmental and land conservation point of view, the constant pounding of the wakes against the banks and shore is causing erosion, bank collapse and accompanying vegetation loss, and silted water. We expect this situation to become much worse this summer due to new regulations put forth by the Marine Board making our area a specific wake surfing zone. I and neighboring farm owners are very upset about this. The Marine Board seems only interested in creating wake surfing zones in areas where we farmers are, who don't have the numbers or the docks or the clout of the wake boat industry to prevent this zoning. But we are the one with the exposed soft sedimentary and often steep banks which cannot withstand the pounding energy of the wakes. The Marine Board will not consider this problem.

The Marine Board needs the authority and the mandate to enact regulations regarding areas such as ours within the Willamette River Greenway. We are hoping the HB 2351 will encourage/force the Marine Board to consider and regulate boating which causes this destruction to the banks, shores and soils of the Willamette River Greenway. We are also hoping the enactment of HB 2352 raises awareness and provides consequences for boaters whose wakes are causing damage.

Thank you for your consideration.



Maria Hall, Willamette Farms, Newberg, Oregon