

Good morning,

My name is Zak Nichols, and I live on the upper Willamette River. I have a water front property with a dock that is right in the midst of all this battle over river use. I am also an avid boater and am firmly opposed to HB 2351. Everyone has recently come to a fair compromise with the new rules that were approved for the Newberg Pool. I agree that we need to keep the river safe and friendly for all to enjoy, but the rules that are being proposed in HB 2351 are overstepping and essentially shutting down the river to all motorized vehicles. This will have numerous unintended consequences to the economy, government agencies, home owners and business owners in the area.

The river elevation has jumped up 3 feet overnight and with the amount of rain that has been falling, I wouldn't be surprised to see it come up 6-10' by the end of the week based on historical observations. The rise in water levels causes large amounts of debris, including full size trees to be swept down river into anything that may be in the way. How "Boat Wake Energy" is the cause of erosion, property damage, and habitat destruction and not the naturally occurring rise and fall of the river is absurd.

Again, I am strongly opposed to HB 2351. The river should not be shut down to boating due to a very small percentage of residence not wanting other people playing on the river. This is not a private lake, it is a public river that should be available for everyone to safely and respectfully enjoy.

Thank you,

Zak Nichols