

In support of HB2351

Dear Chair Witt and Committee Members,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony. I am in favor of this bill as it brings the Oregon State Marine Board to the table when discussing matters relevant to the Willamette River.

I have lived on the Willamette in Wilsonville since 1987 and still enjoy kayaking, swimming and waterskiing there. However, it has become very difficult to make use of the river during many hours of the week.

Typical boats have gone from 2000lbs to 10,000 or more pounds and often include ballast tanks and wedges to carve a larger "hole" in the water as they pass by. Boat length has gone from 16-18 feet to 23-25 feet. Boats this size require large engines to move them through the water – often rated at 350-550 horsepower.

The Marine Board has seemingly had a hard time deciding whether they have statutory authority to do anything to preserve this important river. This bill helps to establish their involvement and ability to help steward the river.

There are many issues here, from the safety of individuals participating in watersports and those on docks to the preservation of habitat and property. The Willamette is simply too important to ignore.

Therefore, I urge you to support HB2351. Please do whatever you can to pass this important legislation.

Thank you

Eric Lintner