

From: [Darby Collins](#)
To: [Exhibits_HNR](#)
Subject: In Support of HB2352
Date: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 7:48:54 PM

House Committee on Natural Resources

Chair Representative Brad Witt
Vice-Chair Representative Chris Gorsek
Vice-Chair Representative Sherrie Sprenger
Representative Greg Barreto
Representative Caddy McKeown
Representative Jeff Reardon
Representative David Brock Smith

Dear Chair Witt and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of HB 2352 that offers improved education and certification for towed water sports in the Willamette River.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important legislation.

This legislation is a negotiated proposal between Wake Sports enthusiasts and homeowners on the river who are struggling with property and environmental damage from the wave energy being created in the Willamette River as well as bad behavior from some wake sports participants.

I currently live on the Willamette River in Wilsonville. I also serve as president of the Willamette Greenway Alliance (WGA) which represents a coalition of organizations working to protect and preserve the natural, scenic and recreational qualities of the Willamette River Greenway by advocating for policies which promote boater safety, protect property (docks, shoreline, habitat) and ensure recreation is environmentally sustainable.

HB2352 is a beefed-up education effort to help those individuals who participate in towed water sports operate in a safe and responsible manner. It is very similar to asking someone who is going to drive a large truck down Oregon's highways to go through commercial driving lessons to ensure they operate safely and responsibly while using the power at their finger tips. The OSMB current education/certification efforts have not been sufficient to meet the demand and needs of boating on the river today. We face increasing conflict and environmental damage on the river due to the behavior of some wake sport participants.

This legislation will also provide innovative ideas (like big stickers) and increased penalties to help law enforcement to manage behavior and enforce Oregon law.

HB2352 help will boating enthusiasts through stronger education in how to operate responsibly and within the guidelines that are needed to protect the Willamette River. HB2352 helps promote boater safety, protect property (docks, shoreline, habitat) and ensure recreation is environmentally sustainable.

This is a companion piece with HB2351. HB2351 empowers an agency (the Oregon State Marine Board) while HB2352 empowers people (the boating public) thereby these two legislative pieces work together to help all of us enjoy the Willamette and successfully protect

the river for future generations.

Without HB2352, the OSMB does not have the robust certification and enforcement package they need to protect boaters and help them operate safely and responsibly to protect people, shoreline, property and habitat on the Willamette River.

I urge you to support HB2352.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Darby Collins
Willamette Greenway Alliance
President
darbycollins@earthlink.net
503-432-7596