

In support of HB2352

Dear Chair Witt and members of the House Committee on Natural Resources:

My name is Katie Farrell and I am both a motorized and non-motorized boater. I reside in Wilsonville, Clackamas County along the Willamette River. I am writing in support of HB2352. Since recreational boats have drastically changed in the last 5 years, it is imperative that the users of these boats become educated about best operating practices and the outcomes of not using them as designed. Along with this, the education will give these types of operators a greater understanding of safety issues that arise from high wave energy, that is unique to their boats.

HB2352 will also provide data to OSMB regarding the types of boats being licensed which they currently do not have access to and therefore are unable to make appropriate and reasonable decisions about future usage as the population of boaters increases.

Finally, this bill will increase the fines of boaters who do not comply with the rules. It is my experience that boaters often do not comply with current rules because the fines are so low, less than a tank of gas, making the current fines ineffective. Without increased fines to offenders, there will be no reason for high wave energy producers to follow the rules. The sheriffs have limited resources and therefore are unable to patrol the river at all times. The increased fines will certainly give an added incentive to follow the rules by boaters just in the event law enforcement does come to the scene.

Thank you for considering this bill in your committee. I hope you will send this bill to the floor with a Do Pass recommendation.

Dr. Katherine J. Farrell
ORSPA board member