

Friends of
Historic Butteville
AN OREGON NONPROFIT CORPORATION

February 13, 2019

To: Rep. Brad Witt and House Natural Resources Committee Members

Friends of Historic Butteville is an Oregon nonprofit corporation that, among other things, is restoring the Historic Butteville Landing. This right-of-way provides public access to the Willamette River when complete will include a small mixed-use dock. The site contains the Butteville Landing Footings, a SHPO-registered archaeological site.

We support HB 2351 not because we specifically want to restrict wake boarding or any other recreational activity within the Willamette River Greenway, but because the current system is not working. Between ever larger boats, implementation of wake enhancing technology, limited restrictions (no wake zones) and poorly coordinated County enforcement, massive wake waves are constantly generated on the busiest days making the river unusable for all but wake boarders, and raising significant safety and environmental problems.

The wake boarding industry is focused on boats with devices to create larger and larger wake waves, and these waves cause damage as they strike the shore perpendicularly. Yes, the Willamette is an active and dynamic river (especially in the winter), but beyond that, significant erosion has been occurring at increasing rates since the advent of this sport, and especially in the past decade.

We support this bill because we believe the State Marine Board must be empowered to protect the shoreline of the Willamette River. We acknowledge that many wake boarders are responsible citizens and abide by current No Wake Zone markings, but many do not. The result is the constant problems in the summer that, in addition to the problems mentioned above, also threaten both the archaeological site at the base of the Butteville Landing, and continue to erode river shorelines within the Greenway.

Immediate property owners adjacent to the Butteville Landing report loss of two to three feet of bank in the past ten to fifteen years. This is real property loss, and we ask you to advance HB 2351 for all these reasons.

Sincerely



Ben Williams, President