

**From:** [Travis Williams](#)  
**To:** [Exhibits HNR](#)  
**Subject:** Willamette Riverkeeper - Supplemental Comments on HB 2351  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 13, 2019 3:36:12 PM

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Chair Witt, Vice Chair Gorsek, and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB 2351

I'd like to provide some supplemental thoughts and a question that was not included in the main body of my testimony in regard to our support of HB 2351.

Given the advent of wake surfing boats, and the rate of change in the towed watersports industry, it seems that the technology has outpaced the ability of the OSMB to adequately respond. There has been a lot of change in a very small amount of time. The industry has literally more than doubled the average wake size in just a few years. By the logic of some who dislike HB 2351 and 2352, they think they should be free to boat as they like on a big, flat, relatively narrow and often congested river.

Wake surfing boats typically produce waves that are measured from 3-4 feet in the last few years. In reality the question becomes, how big of a wake is too big for a given waterway?

Is a 5ft wake acceptable on the Willamette? How about a 6ft wake? By the logic of some who oppose HB 2351, there should inherently be no limits to their wake size.

As we all know, in this society rules of one kind or another are developed and implemented to deal with issues. Let's take speed limits for example. Limits are put in place to protect public safety, and driver safety. Other rules and limits have similar goals.

While people are free to travel public waters that are deemed navigable, there are rules that apply depending on where one is. On the John Day River there are rules regarding power boats. On the Rogue jet boats only go up to a certain point. On many rivers, lakes, and bays there are conditions that are unique, and necessitate additional agency oversight, new rules, or additions to existing rules.

Wake surfing boats are not different. I've recently read some of the testimony against HB 2531 that seems to indicate wave producing craft are somehow in a special class. They are not. We are only here today addressing this issue due to *one kind* of recreation that has a variety of impacts on the safety of people, degradation of property, and impacts to the environment.

Thanks for your indulgence for this additional perspective, and as always for your service to the State of Oregon.

Sincerely,

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Riverkeeper & Executive Director

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