

From: [Rep Witt](#)
To: [Kornhauser Kailey](#)
Subject: FW: HB2351 and HB2352
Date: Thursday, February 14, 2019 7:53:10 AM

For the committee...

From: Kennemer <kennemerbc@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 10:16 AM
To: Rep Witt <Rep.BradWitt@oregonlegislature.gov>
Subject: HB2351 and HB2352

Dear Chair Witt,

Brad,

I hope this letter finds you doing well this Session! Cherie and I are enjoying retirement. It's nice to not be getting up early, and it's nice not to have the pressure that goes with the Legislature. But we also **miss our friends like you and the excitement of being part of the House team.**

Regarding HB 2351 & HB 2352 (both coming up in your Committee on Thursday, Feb.14th), I write to plead for and encourage your support. These are important and much needed bills! I should note that for the last 20 years Cherie and I have been living on the Willamette River about 4 miles south of the Willamette Falls in Oregon City, and the changes we have experienced are the origin of our deep concern and input.

Given the nature of the bills (HB 2351 essentially allows the Marine Board to work with other appropriate state entities and HB 2352 gives the Marine Board authority to manage the dramatically changing uses of the Willamette River), I expect others will provide testimony about the provisions of and the urgent need for these bills. So I thought it might **be helpful for someone you know to simply share our experiences with change on the river** as folks who have been watching it happen over time. Living in the Greenway is a wonderful experience, but in our over 20 years, we are seeing dramatic, recent changes that alarm us and should alarm all of us Oregonians. Thus HB 2351 and HB 2352 are very important and, likely, critical! They offer potential to significantly address serious issues and keep our Willamette River wonderful for all Oregonians.

Particularly in the last 10 years, traffic and impact on the river has increased dramatically! Not only are there more boaters, but new boat designs and new activities like wake surfing, wake boarding, kayaking, paddle boarding, and formerly peaceful fishing are having **dramatic impacts on the river banks, the water quality, safety, habitat and general Oregon respect for our natural resources!**

Here are some examples: On a busy summer day, wake erosion from the

shoreline typically results in muddy looking water from the shoreline out 100-200' into the river! And as Dr. Stan Gregory, Department of Fisheries & Wildlife and Oregon State University, points out in a letter sent to you, this turbulence is having an intense impact on habitat, water quality, and on endangered fish, especially endangered steelhead and salmon. (And I would note that natural erosion from flooding is relatively little, as thousands of years of flooding has previously eroded away most vulnerable areas.)

As concerned and responsible property owners along the river, we are deeply troubled and concerned. Consistent with Dr. Gregory's letter, there is no longer a gently sloping somewhat sandy bank along the waterfront. Instead there is a mucky-muddy layer about 15" deep that reaches out into the water at least some 10-20' from shore and perhaps across the river. Mostly gone are the shoreline small fish and critters of years past. The muck is so bad that our small grandkids have to mostly stay on the shore because the mud is so sticky and soft that they cannot play or walk through it safely.

As property owners, these last 10 years have dramatically added new concerns. For example, on our property **wave energy erosion has eroded away literally about 10' of our bank frontage** (with similar experiences for many on the river), requiring, for example, moving our dock shore abutment anchors further back 2 times. It is hard to estimate or imagine how much mud and erosion/environmental damage that has caused, especially when you multiply it by some 30 miles of river banks addressed by these bills! And replacing those anchors and extending the ramp and support arm 2 times has been expensive, too. Oh, I should mention that our property is in a mild back flow section of the river where there is very little to no erosion from natural causes like rushing flood waters.

The key concern is for the heavy wakes and waves ("boat wake energy"). First is safety! Basically, our dock is unsafe when such activity is occurring. About 2 years ago, for example, my son, his wife, and their 3 small children grabbed the boat cover posts and barely escaped being washed off the dock when water over 18" high rushed over the top of the dock (and remember the dock deck is another 15-20" above the water)! And waves like that are common on busy days! We don't allow anyone on the dock at busy times; it's simply unsafe! And it is important to remember that swimmers, paddle boarders, kayakers, fishers, and hosts of others are literally being put at risk or forced to avoid enjoying the river when such wave and wake dangers are present.

Another issue is **damage to the docks from the heavy waves and wakes**. Ten years ago my old dock (which was designed for dramatically different times) had to be replaced as the increasingly heavy wakes were literally destroying it. And in these last 10 years, the new dock has required major repairs twice, and we have folks coming out soon to estimate the costs of repairing the damage from this last summer.

I mention all these items so that you can begin to understand the tremendous impact these wake energies are having along the shoreline and the fact that washed away bank is polluting the water, destroying water habitat, and literally destroying trees and vegetation along the shore line. And these misuses of the river are threatening the safety, use, and preservation of the river for Oregonians, now and in the future.

HB 2351 and HB 2352 are desperately needed for our beloved Willamette River and its many users, from humans to vegetation, birds, fish, and literally our future.

Thanks for taking the time to read about our concerns. We urge your support of HB 2351 & HB 2152! Cherie and I would welcome a phone call (503-263-8628, ho & 503-936-5106, Bill's cell).

Thanks, Bill (& Cherie) Kennemer

PS Sometime if you have a few minutes, we'd love to have you stop by for a visit, drink, and look!