

From: [Beth Biggs](#)
To: [Exhibits HNR](#)
Subject: Letter of Support HB 2352
Date: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 4:56:26 PM

Dear Chair Witt and Committee Members,

I am writing to request your support for HB 2352.

My name is Beth Biggs, and I am writing to encourage your support of this important legislation. I am a property owner along the Willamette River and have been a multiple years' long task force member of the Oregon State Marine Board Advisory Committee. Additionally, I participated in the legislative work group that formed via direction from Chair Susan McLain following last year's legislative short session and work specific to HB4099 regarding wake boat use on the Willamette River Newberg Pool (from the Yamhill River to the Willamette Falls).

The Newberg Pool segment of the Willamette River has been designated by the Oregon State Marine Board as a Known Congestion Zone. HB2352 provides for more focused boater education specific to towed watersports in the Newberg Pool segment of the Willamette River. This house bill was enacted with input from the multiple stakeholders from the legislative work group last session which included the Oregon State Marine Board and the Wake Sports Industry leaders. Goals include increased education, proactive training to reverse growing incident and accident trends on this waterway, and increased funding available from citations directly for marine law enforcement.

A few additional pieces of information that may be of benefit:

- The Newberg Pool has been a designated congestion zone by the Oregon State Marine Board for multiple years.
- In that time the boat sizes for wake sports have doubled and tripled in weight
- The populations of the cities along this segment of the waterway have all grown again by at least 1/3 placing more local citizens recreating in the zone
- The metro area population utilizing the Newberg Pool also continues to grow rapidly
- The OSMB has just put regulations forward creating activity "zones" which will have multiple users vying for the center line of the waterway

Thank you to the Committee for your time and attention on this House Bill. I appreciate your support for this legislation.

Respectfully,

Beth M. Biggs
Willamette River Property Owner
Oregon State Marine Board Task Force Advisory Member

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