

KEN & BARBARA VERBOORT

February 14, 2019

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

I'm testifying in support of HB2351 and thank you for the opportunity to address this issue.

My wife and I purchased a home on the Willamette River at 23905 Butteville Rd., NE Aurora, OR over 32 years ago.

We have watched the boat size and design generate larger and larger wakes; in particular, the last 5 years. These larger and larger wakes have had a huge impact on safety of people on the docks, erosion and dock damage. The increased erosion at the summer months water level is breaking down the bank structure and integrity at the very foundation. As the lower water level line deteriorates, the entire bank above that foundation level is at risk. This greatly increases the potential and has resulted in entire banks sloughing off.

These same enlarged wakes have caused tens of thousands of dollars to home owners for the repair to docks up and down the river and which, in turn, will negatively impact the value of homes along the river. We have incurred damage to our own dock as result of these larger wakes. In 2018 the heavy steel structures that connects the dock to its pilings were destroyed by the large wakes and now, presently, we are evaluating and getting estimates to repair the heavy timbers and foundation of our dock

Lastly and most important, we have got a serious safety issue on the river. In watching from our deck, these huge wakes are throwing docks, boats, paddle boarders and swimmers violently about. This can only result in serious injuries or potentially deaths.

We respectfully request your support to help us reduce these risks and damages. We, ourselves, do support all boating/water activities as long as they don't put other users or property at risk. Thank you for your consideration.

Kenneth A. Verboort

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K.A. Verboort', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.