

KEN & BARBARA VERBOORT
Aurora OR 97002

April 25, 2019

Chair Senator Michael Dembrow & Committee Members
Senate Environment & Natural Resources Committee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

SUBJECT: In Support of House Bill 2351

Dear Chair Dembrow & Committee Members:

My wife and I purchased a home on the Willamette River nearly 33 years ago.. We are in support of House Bill 2351 for the following reasons:

- 1) 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.
- 2) 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 have evaluated and got estimates to repair the heavy timbers and foundation of our dock and are presently in the process of doing the repairs.
- 3) 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 of this bill to help reduce these risks and damages. Anything you can do in this regard would be helpful. We ourselves, do support all boating/water sports activities as long as they don't put other users or property at risk. Thank you for your consideration.

Ken Verboort
Barbara Verboort
