

Joint Ways and Means Committee Members,

The Willamette River Community Coalition is increasingly concerned about the bias and intent of bill 2352 and the process through which it is being pushed through.

I subscribe to this bill and was just notified of a public hearing today, which being announced 3 hours before it takes place obviously will make it nearly impossible for people to come and testify and this increases our concerns about this process not protecting everyone's rights and it not reflecting the experiences of all user groups but that it is being driven by small faction of our river community with a clear agenda.

After much research and legal consultations we do not believe that this bill reflects proper state management of a public and federally navigable waterway. By imposing unnecessary restrictions and requirements for the use of a public waterway and by targeting only one group with these restrictions it creates an undue burden and a lack of equity among user groups on the river.

Likewise, because you are not addressing the concerns of other users regarding issues with participants in other activities this bill will not lead to safer conditions for all of us on the river. When we brought this up with some of the calm water leaders they too said they see the safety issues caused by other users such as the Jet Boats, jet skiers, and even non-motorized boaters, yet these bills continue to target only one user group, wake athletes.

Bill 2352 should not move forward and instead we should be working together as a community of people who live and recreate on the river to create a comprehensive plan that takes into account everyone's concerns and creates meaningful safety education, rules and enforcement for all river users. As we have stated before we very much would like to be a part of that process to make sure the stated goals of comprehensive education, safety and enforcement are achieved and we want to do our part in our community to help make that happen.

my best,

Paige Stoyer
Willamette River Community Coalition