

"Chair Witt, members of the committee, my name is Chris Mitchell, and I'm here to testify in opposition to HB 2695"

I am a West Linn riverfront property owner, a small business owner and the chair of the West Linn Riverfront Association, whose membership is derived from a wide variety of the 480 West Linn Riverfront taxpaying households and have considerable personal interest and financial investment in their River lifestyles.

These rules do not address the issue with the board make-up in a satisfactory way.

There does indeed appear to be a pressing need to address the board make-up of the OSMB. The current member structure of the board seems to allow for one partisan group or another or pressure from the legislature to force biased rule changes, such as the recent Newberg Pools and Lower Willamette boat restrictions rulings, through the board by applying unbridled pressure on the members of the board and the institution itself. Instead what we need are measured evidential rulings made based on scientific and social data. This data will have first been researched and, once found conclusive, then acted upon.

That being said I do not believe that letting the fox-run-the-chicken-coop is the answer. A suggestion that the make-up of the board be from a broad cross-section of a Marine savvy professionals and interest groups such as the army corp of engineers, a NOAA or Fisheries expert, a Bar Pilots representative, a maritime law enforcement officer, a sport boat user, a paddler, a commercial vessel operator, ecology-minded certified professional and a farmer or factory owner & a Riverfront or Lakefront Homeowner. The appointments to the board should be made for 2-year term, not 4 years, with an appointment limit of 3 terms. The Board director should have a neutral position with no ability to influence the direction of rulings but instead to oversee and preside over the process of rulemaking.

Thank you for your time and consideration.