

Friends of
Historic Butteville
AN OREGON NONPROFIT CORPORATION

February 6, 2018

Chair McLain and Transportation Committee Members

Friends of Historic Butteville is an Oregon nonprofit corporation that, among other things, is restoring the Historic Butteville Landing (see attachment). This right-of-way will provide public access to the Willamette River when complete, in a beautiful and historic setting. The site contains the Butteville Landing Footings, a SHPO-registered archaeological site.

We support HO 4099 not because we specifically want to restrict wake boarding or any other recreational activity on the Willamette River between River Mile 30 and 50, but because the current system is not working. Between limited restrictions (no wake zones) and poorly coordinated County enforcement, massive wake waves are constantly generated on the busiest days making the river all but unusable for all but wake boarders, and raising significant safety and environmental problems.

The wake boarding industry is focused on boats with devices to create larger and larger wake waves, and these waves cause damage as they strike the shore perpendicularly. Yes, the Willamette is an active and dynamic river (especially in the winter), but beyond that, significant erosion has been occurring at increasing rates since the advent of this sport, and especially in the past decade.

We support this bill because we believe something has to be put in place to limit the size of wake waves being generated. We acknowledge that many wake boarders are responsible citizens and abide by current No Wake Zone markings, but many do not. The result is the constant problems in the summer that, in addition to the problems mentioned above, also threaten both the archaeological site at the base of the Butteville Landing, and raise safety concerns for the general public as we complete a trail for river access and then install a mixed-use paddle craft dock.

Immediate property owners adjacent to the Butteville Landing report loss of two to three feet of bank in the past ten to fifteen years. This is real property loss, and we ask you to advance HB 4099 for all these reasons.

Sincerely



Ben Williams, President

HISTORIC BUTTEVILLE LANDING

Right: rough excavation Fall of 2017
after brush and tree removal

Below: view from the river of old
Butteville Landing Footings (SHPO
archaeological site) at low water in July,
2017

Friends of Historic Butteville

Ben Williams, President

friendsbutteville@gmail.com

