

From: [Renee Morgan](#)
To: [Exhibits HNR](#)
Subject: Support for HB 2351
Date: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 11:18:07 PM

February 12, 2019

Chair Representative Brad Witt
Vice-Chair Representative Chris Gorsek
Vice-Chair Representative Sherrie Sprenger
Representative Greg Barreto
Representative Caddy McKeown
Representative Jeff Reardon
Representative David Brock Smith

Dear Chair Witt, Vice-Chair Gorsek, Vice-Chair Sprenger and Members of the Committee:

In support of HB 2351

Dear Chair Witt and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of HB 2351 which authorizes the State Marine Board to adopt special regulations to protect shoreline in the Willamette River Greenway. I live on the Willamette River in Portland, and serve as organizer of the Calm Water Coalition (CWC) which represents 500 members, including recreational users, residents, marinas, and businesses between Sellwood and the Columbia North Harbor. I also serve on the Board of Willamette Greenway Alliance (WGA), a group of coalitions working to protect and preserve the natural, scenic and recreational qualities of the Willamette River Greenway.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Many coalition members in the Portland river community have worked over the years to support the river ecosystem, water quality and wildlife habitats through volunteer organizations like SOLV, Audubon Society, and Human Access Project. Floating home communities follow strict DSL, OSMB and DEQ guidelines to ensure environmentally compatible moorages. They are also active river sport enthusiasts -- sailing, paddling, rowing, swimming, paddling Dragon Boats, and boarding.

CWC members support HB 2351 because the river is their home; the Sellwood floating home moorages, marinas, and boathouses have been around since the turn of the century, some with generations of residents. As the Farmer's Insurance ad says, they "know a thing or two, because they've seen a thing or two." They protected their homes and boats during the Flood of '96, the floating pennywort infestation of 2013, and the toxic

algae bloom of 2016. Now, they are concerned about sustaining their docks, decks, shoreline habitat and homes. The new challenge to their homes is high-energy wake generated by wakesports, and it took them by surprise, because during the construction of the new Sellwood Bridge, the 5 mph zone around the construction slowed the wakesports in the area for two years. Now they are looking to HB 2351 and HB 2352 for an answer to the wake problem.

This legislation would authorize the Oregon Marine Board to adopt special regulations to protect the shoreline on the Willamette Greenway, and potentially alleviate the dramatic wake impact on river banks and structures. It could reduce the tens of thousands of dollars property owners have spent in the past two years on dock, deck and marina repairs from repetitive artificially-induced waves. And it could make the river safer for rowers, kayakers, Dragon Boats and sailing.

This legislation is an opportunity for cooperation and better management of the river for all users. With the issues facing the Willamette River today, we request your support of HB 2351 to protect the shoreline, public and private property, and river habitats in the Willamette Greenway Plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Renee Morgan



CALM WATER COALITION

Portland Rowing Club
Oregon Yacht Club
Macadam Bay Moorage
Waterfront Organization of Oregon (WOOO)
Human Access Project
Willamette Riverkeeper
Oaks Park Community Boathouse
Rose City Rowing Club
Station L Rowing Club
Lewis & Clark Rowing
Wasabi Paddling Club Dragon Boats & Outriggers
Willamette Sailing Club
Willamette Rowing Club
LO Community Rowing Club
Landing Boat Club
RiversWest Small Craft Center
Bridgeton Moorage
Oregon River Sustainability and Preservation Alliance (ORSPA)

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Renee Morgan

Portland Rowing Club