

February 13, 2019

Greetings Chair Witt and Committee members,

Thank you for taking the time to review my testimony. I will **try** to be succinct and hope in reviewing my testimony you will understand why we support HB2851 and a companion, HB2352.

We are currently on an unsustainable path with an unnatural occurrence on the Willamette River, which is eroding the embankment and causing accelerated damage.

We need to address that damage and all that comes with it;

- bank erosion
- private property damage
- public property damage
- habitat loss
- user conflicts
- exclusion of users
- increased siltation
- channelization of the river

Yes, there are several causes of erosion and erosion is an urgent issue.

HB2351 brings the issue to the attention of agencies that have some ability study and address it. The causes of the erosion are what those agencies should be trying to unpack.

We have overlapping regulations, gaps in regulations, science, no science, disputed science ,etc.

There is the need to evaluate the changes to the river and embankment, but the priority doesn't change. *The goal to protect the Greenway should be "no new erosion.*

If we had a baseline measurement, in 5 years, the goal should be more net change in bank loss. We should task agencies to come up with a path in which it may not be improving, but at least the goal is a trajectory that it is lessening. Right now, the trajectory in erosion is only going up.

Contrary to some testimony, it doesn't seem the river needs to be shut down to accomplish this goal.

The nexus here is we have environmentalists, conservatives, liberals, public, and private property rights people all coming together over the issue "we need to be concerned about the loss of the river banks and the damage because of this use".

The parks department recently spent \$150,000 of taxpayer dollars to restore a very small section of erosion near Champoeg Park. Sadly, this is a number not unfamiliar to landowners and farmers along the Willamette river, when faced with the need to restore their embankment. We know shoring up embankments with rip-rap (rock) is not a sustainable solution, as it pushes the problem downstream for a neighbor to contend with.

We all agree, the public has the right to use the waterway. However, not the right to destroy it. The public has the right to use roads and highways. However, laws must be obeyed. The public has a right to recreate on state lands. However, not to remove trees, or start forest fires.

Protecting the greenway does not come at the cost of public usage of the waterway..

HB 2351 actually helps ensure the river will be protected and not shut down for recreational boating.

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JULY 6, 2018



VS

AUGUST 6, 2018

