

Watts Remy

From: Gmail <fromrisa@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 3:12 PM
To: SENR Exhibits
Subject: Please Help with HB2351A

From:

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April 26, 2019

To: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senator Alan Olsen, Co-Chair
Committee Members
By email

Subject: Increased wakes: damage and danger to river users, HB 2351A

I am writing to request your support for HB 2351A currently before the Oregon State Senate. HB 2351A gives the Oregon State Marine Board the local rulemaking authority to make regulations which align with other state agencies to protect the shoreline, marine habitat, and private property along the Willamette River Greenway. It will close a policy gap that allows a small class of river users to cause damage to whole sections of the river and imperil thousands of other users.

Businesses, Houses and utilities:

Over the last 2 years large wakes have increased enormously. Now these large wakes happen many times a day and throw whole marinas around like a child's toy.

Code required connections are over-stressed and have failed. Utility connections fail, leaving houses and businesses without water, and with a danger of gas and sewage leaks. People stagger or fall to the floor to avoid injury. It is far worse than a severe earthquake.

Shoreline and type of damaging wakes:

Not only are our houses affected but also the shoreline behind the houses and beyond our boat docks. Wakes are not one simple wave emanating from the centerline of the boat. They 'bounce' off the opposite shore and return across river. They meet their counterpart wave and the turmoil is doubled or tripled. The shorelines are quickly eroding and marine habitat is being destroyed.

When the damage occurs:

During the week this damage occurs from about 3-4pm till sundown, every day, during boating season. On weekends and Holidays it is worse and starts about 2pm (sometimes earlier) and continues until sundown or later. At these times there is a constant pounding of houses against water, and the docks and pilings that secure our homes and businesses.

Other users and timing:

In the past, water skiers produced smaller wakes but now there is a procession of boats which produce huge, chaotic wakes, and other river users have experienced life-threatening accidents. We need a solution soon before something catastrophic happens.

Conclusion:

I am grateful for your appreciation and understanding of our concerns. I am sure that suitable, safe wakeboarding locations can be found locally. Thousands of Willamette River users will be grateful and the couple of hundred wake boarders will also be able to enjoy the river in the knowledge they will not be harming anything or endangering others. I trust that you will feel able to support the bill.

Sincerely yours,
Risa Harrell