

HB2351

Dear Chair Dembrow and members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources

My name is Katie Farrell, residing in Wilsonville, Clackamas County along the Willamette River. I represent the Oregon Rivers Safety & Preservation Alliance (ORSPA) and am writing in support of HB2351.

This bill will update and fill in a long-standing policy gap which currently exists among our state agencies.

The Willamette River Greenway statute OAR 660-015-0005 was set up to protect the Willamette Rivers environment, *“To protect, conserve, enhance and maintain the natural, scenic, historical, agricultural, economic and recreational qualities of lands along the Willamette River as the Willamette River Greenway”*.

As the population of the state changes, the stresses placed on the Willamette River are ever increasing. These stresses are translating into potentially irreversible damage to the embankments which support a diverse ecosystem that our state cannot afford to lose. Responsibility to implement the Willamette Greenway Rule 15 has been delegated to all county and city jurisdictions along the river as well as all relevant state agencies except the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB).

HB2351 will allow OSMB to join other state agencies and become part of the solution to manage this problem.

Thank you for consideration.

Dr. Katherine J. Farrell
Oregon River Safety and Preservation Alliance (ORSPA) President