

## Watts Remy

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**From:** Joe Conour <jlconour@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2019 4:20 PM  
**To:** SENR Exhibits  
**Subject:** HB 2351A

April 26, 2019  
Chair Senator

Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee  
Michael Dembrow  
Vice-Chair Senator Alan Olsen  
Committee Members

In support of HB2351A

Dear Senator Dembrow, Senator Olsen and Committee Members,

My wife and I bought a home in the Portland Rowing Club in August 2016. The prospect of living on the river and in a floating home was new and exciting for us. Activity on the river that we experienced the first year while the Sellwood Bridge was still under construction we thought was the norm. Little did we know! The following year it became obvious to even the casual observer that something had dramatically changed. There was a much higher concentration of water craft on the river in front of our home, and in our new environment we were now being subjected to frequent rogue waves that caused our home to rock, sometimes violently. Often times this rocking would be accompanied with a loud bang as the connecting floating structures strained against their respective restraints. We found that we had to be careful when we were up stairs that we weren't knocked off balance onto the floor. In 2018 we continued to see the ever increasing river activity with more rough waters and heavy use.

We count ourselves lucky so far because it appears that we have experienced only minimal damage to our home and property from the huge high energy waves, save for several seemingly minor cracks in the dry wall and the occasional loosening of mooring anchors. Plumbing, water lines and outside electrical conduits have remained intact but we have to inspect them on a regular basis. We are especially concerned about maintaining the integrity of the moorings that continuously get hammered by the frequently violent rocking caused by the waves.

It has become obvious to us that the river is a lot smaller than most people truly understand, and during the summer even smaller as the level of the river drops. The river is calm and safe most mornings, evenings and nights throughout the year, but in the summer months it is anything but. With the ever increasing concentration of boats, speeds, and massive generated waves the river in some sections has become treacherous. If left unchecked the situation will only continue to get worse until there is loss of life and other tragedies.

The direction the Oregon river environment is headed is not the legacy we want to leave our children and the next generation. Proper legislation must be enacted and enforced to stem this trend. I urge you to support the enactment of HB 2351A. Thank you.

Yours respectfully,

Joseph L. Conour  
Lt. Col. USAF (ret)