

In support of HB2725

I read an article about freshwater conservation in National Geographic recently. The following are some key points.

Freshwater vertebrate populations have declined 86% since 1970 and one-third are threatened, twice the decline of marine populations.

Freshwater biodiversity is our canary in the coal mine for human health.

Other countries are starting to grant legal rights to rivers, treating them like living entities.

Taking into account ecological health of rivers is good business, it's a low cost investment with a high return. The economic benefits are increasingly clear.

I know Wilsonville gets its drinking water from the river. Wake boats have exhaust systems that push their exhaust directly under the water into the river. This raises the temperature of the river and incorporates noxious gases into the water.

Wouldn't it be nice if we knew we were doing everything we can to keep the river healthy. Let Oregon be at the forefront of this cause rather than play catch up later.

HB2725 is a step in the right direction.