

To: Senator Rob Wagner and members of the Senate Rules Committee

From: Debra Mumm-Hill

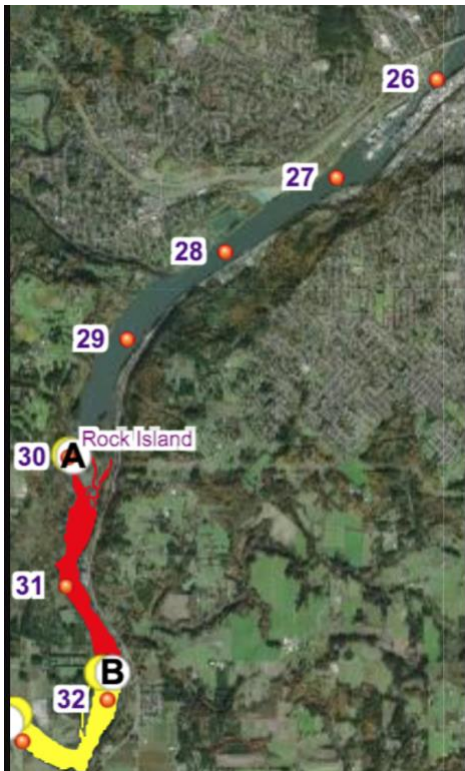
West Linn resident along the Willamette River at mile maker 28.5

Committee Hearing: June 1, 2021 at 1:00 PM

Good afternoon Senator Wagner and members of the Senate Rules Committee. My name is Debra Mumm-Hill, I have lived in West Linn along the Willamette River for the past 16 years at mile maker 28.5

I strongly support SB-857-1 and restricting the weight limit of boats to less than 4,000 lbs. I have taken this position due to the massive erosion I have witnessed along the river bank between miles 28 – 32 over the past three years and have great cause for concern that another Union Pacific derailment is eminently in our future. Less than 6 months ago, a Union Pacific train derailed on January 6, 2021 at 1:30 AM, near mile marker 31. Fifteen cars tipped over sideways that day, spilling cargo alongside the track and into the river. Fortunately, these 15 cars were not carrying hazardous materials, but I believe we got lucky that these cars were not carrying crude oil or other toxic liquids. Multiple times a day Union Pacific trains travel along this stretch of river carrying on average 25-30 crude oil and other hazardous cargo.

Union Pacific train track runs adjacent to the Willamette riverbank for 6 miles from mile marker 26.6 to 32.



The photo titled "Train Derailment Clean UP" is a view from highway 99E in Canby looking East.



Two and a half years ago on May 16, 2018, Cherie Kennemer, Canby resident and homeowner on the river, contacted Cindy Roberts, Oregon contract lobbyist for Union Pacific. Ms. Kennemer stated her concerns regarding a slide on the tracks near mile marker 31.5, very close to where the January 6 derailment occurred. There is a photo depicting the slide area in May 2018, and the red line represents the railroad track. I am not a structural track engineer, but you can see the earth below the track is compromised.



The next photos show pictures of the January 6 derailment and prove how lucky we were the train cars that derailed were not transporting hazardous materials. You can see lumber, which was the train's cargo, spilled down the riverbank and into the water.



The next photo shows how close the train track runs right on top of the riverbank for the majority of the 6.5 miles on the Willamette river above the falls heading west. The riverbank's integrity is critical to the structural integrity of the train tracks. You will see a great deal of erosion that is happening along stretches of the train tracks which is causing the residents in this area great concern.



Chairman Wagoner and committee members, I respectfully ask that you consider how riverbank erosion caused by wake surfing is and will continue to affect critical infrastructure such as the train tracks along the Willamette River. The decision you make today regarding supporting SB-857-1 could most likely avert another derailment in the very soon future that could be catastrophic not only to lives but to our beautiful waterways. A toxic spill due to a derailment into the Willamette River would indeed be tragic.

Chairman Wagoner and members of this committee I urge you to vote in favor of SB 857-1.

Thank you.

Debra Mumm-Hill