



Oregon

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The Honorable Senator Jackie Dingfelder, Chair
The Honorable Senator Alan Olsen, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Chair Dingfelder and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a statement to the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources regarding Senate Bill 179 with -1 amendment. The Aviation Board does not support the bill as amended.

SB 179 was submitted by the Aviation Board in good faith – as a housekeeping bill – to clarify the current vague statutory language, and require agreement between the Marine Board and the Aviation Board, two different boards with a common interest regarding seaplanes.

Instead, the bill was amended without coordination of any kind with the aviation community in general and the seaplane community in particular. The bill now has the effect of subjugating the Aviation Board to the Marine Board in an area where the Aviation Board and Aviation Department's expertise and perspective is critical to effective and efficient rule making.

The intent of the current statute – and the originally proposed SB 179 – was to require both Marine Board and Aviation Board concurrence in matters involving seaplane operations on waters covered by state statutes. The current statutory requirement for joint participation in these matters was one of the key outcomes of a very intensive process headed by the current President of the Senate and involving the public as well as both marine and aviation interests.

The rationale for the balancing of interests represented (however imperfectly) in existing statutes still prevails. The Marine Board simply does not have the understanding or expertise necessary to conduct rulemaking regarding seaplanes.

The Aviation Board urges that the Committee reject the -1 amendments and recommends that the bill be passed – in order to clarify the existing regulatory structure – as originally drafted.

Mark Gardiner
Chair, Oregon Board of Aviation