



2/12/13

Senator Chris Edwards and Representative Ben Unger,
Co-Chairs, Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

Re: House Bill 5025, Public Hearing 2/13/2013, 1:00 PM

Chairs and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) has long been a valued partner of park managers in the State of Oregon. Through a long and treasured history, the OSMB and parks and recreation providers have successfully constructed, maintained, improved, and operated boating access facilities on a variety of water bodies from the Pacific Ocean to the Snake River. State boaters have directly benefitted from the multitude of partnerships receiving facility improvements, many of which would not be possible without the high quality services and grant funding provided by the Facilities section of the OSMB. As local governments across the state are faced with decreased funding, these partnerships become more valuable.

Oregonians have repeatedly voiced their value of safe access to statewide water bodies for recreation purposes, most recently shown in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2012 Needs Assessment. As local park and recreation agencies are currently facing unprecedented budgetary challenges, we appreciate the collaborative approach that the OSMB promotes in working with local park agencies to ensure this public need is met. Boaters across the state have grown accustomed to expect a service level that has been set through this cooperative approach to funding boating access sites.

At all levels of government revenues continue to be scrutinized in an effort to deliver the best possible service to Oregonians, in the most efficient manner. OPA believes that the OSMB is a model for other statewide agencies looking to maximize effectiveness for the public good. The OSMB staff exhibit the true meaning of a service based program, in which their goal is to continue providing safe, high quality boating access sites, designed and constructed in a manner that most responsibly uses boater dollars.

It is OPA's hope that your committee will consider the benefits that the OSMB provides to local governments and Oregon boaters in these challenging economic times. OPA strongly recommends that the Co-Chairs and the members of the committee pass House Bill 5025.

Sincerely,

Steve Lambert
Oregon Parks Association, President