



Oregon

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House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

The Honorable Brad Witt, Chair

The Honorable Sal Esquivel, Vice-Chair

The Honorable Caddy McKeown, Vice-Chair

RE: Testimony on Senate Bill 26

Dear Committee Chair, Vice-Chairs and Members,

Senate Bill 26 would modify two sections of ORS Chapter 830, *Small Watercraft*. The first proposed change would amend ORS 830.137 (1) to specifically authorize the Marine Board the ability to award grants of federal funds received from the US Fish & Wildlife Service through the federal Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG) Program.

The second proposed change would amend ORS 830.150 (1) to allow federal agencies, (i.e. US Forest Service, Army Corp of Engineers and Bureau of Land Management) to apply directly to the Marine Board for Boating Facility grants instead of having to apply through an Oregon county.

Background relating to amendment to 830.137 (1)

In 1995, the Oregon Legislature amended ORS 830.137 and authorized the Marine Board to award grants from funds received through the Clean Vessel Act, a newly enacted program by the US Congress.

Subsequently, in 1998, the US Congress passed the Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act which established another grant program called the BIG Program. The BIG Program was created to provide funding assistance to construct docks and associated infrastructure improvements, such as gangways, piling, and utilities that serve the needs of recreational boats that are 26' in length and longer.

While the Clean Vessel Act and BIG Program funds both originate from the US Congress and fall under the same jurisdiction of US Code, current language in ORS 830.137 does not specifically authorize the Marine Board to award BIG Program grants. This amendment would clarify any ambiguity which may arise related to the Marine Board's "power and duty" to award grants of federal funds.

Background relating to amendment to 830.150 (1)

ORS 830.150 lists the entities that are eligible to apply to the Marine Board for grant funds which can be used for a wide variety of boating improvements such as launch ramps, docks, parking areas, and restrooms.

