



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

State Marine Board

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House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
The Honorable Brad Witt, Chair
The Honorable Caddy McKeown, Vice-Chair
The Honorable Sal Esquivel, Vice-Chair

RE: Testimony on Senate Bill 571

Dear Committee Chair, Vice-Chairs and Members,

The Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) was created by the State Legislature in 2001 to respond to the growing threat of invasive species in Oregon. The mission of the Council is to conduct a "coordinated and comprehensive effort to keep invasive species out of Oregon and to eliminate, reduce, or mitigate the impacts of invasive species that are already established."

Since 2001, the Marine Board has been working to educate the boating public about the growing threat of invasive species to our state. By 2009, the Oregon Legislature created the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program (AISPP), modeled after a similar program in Idaho, to specifically address the threat of zebra and quagga mussel introduction in Oregon waterways. This program was given to the Marine Board and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to implement and manage.

The Marine Board has had an eight-year working history with the Invasive Species Council where two agency staff members have served in appointed council positions. Because of term limits for appointed positions, the Marine Board is no longer eligible to serve as a voting council member.

With our long history working with the Invasive Species Council and as the primary agency implementing the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention program, the agency welcomes the opportunity to have a permanent seat on the council.

Sincerely,

Scott Brewen
Director

