



Oregon

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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 602

Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

The Honorable Jackie Dingfelder, Chair

March 13, 2013

Tim Wood, Director

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

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Senator Dingfelder and members of the committee, I am Tim Wood, Director of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. I am here today to testify in support of Senate Bill 602. My department is the state agency responsible for administering Oregon's State Scenic Waterway system.

Of the 20 watercourses designated as a state scenic waterway, only one lake has that distinction: Waldo Lake. It is for good reason that the legislature acknowledged the unique values and qualities of this special place when they took care to ensure that it was included in the state scenic waterway system.

The state scenic waterway act mandated that management of the designated water segments be directed to maintain the free-flowing condition and protect and preserve the natural setting and water quality of the state's scenic waters for the benefit of the public.

Waldo Lake possesses a natural, pristine condition that is largely unfettered by development and provides an outdoor recreation experience unparalleled on other water bodies of the state. It is for these reasons that Waldo Lake was included in the state system of scenic waterways. The noise and distraction introduced by internal combustion engines infringes upon the quiet, contemplative, natural atmosphere and the enjoyment of those seeking the peace and solitude that brings a respite to people's lives.

Passage of this bill bolsters the recent action by the Oregon State Marine Board to prohibit motorized boating on Waldo Lake. Passage further recognizes that there are special places in Oregon that deserve to be managed for the benefit of the public in special ways that preserve their natural and scenic qualities. Passage of this bill is consistent with the values set forth when Waldo Lake was designated as a state scenic waterway.

I urge your support of this bill.