



February 9, 2015

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources:
The Honorable Richard Devlin, Co-Chair The Honorable Jodi Hack
The Honorable Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair The Honorable Julie Parrish
The Honorable Brian Clem The Honorable Michael Dembrow
The Honorable David Gomberg The Honorable Bill Hansell

Re: Support of SB5522

On behalf of the nearly 1,000 member park and recreation agencies, professionals, and volunteers represented by the Oregon Recreation and Park Association (ORPA), I am writing to encourage the Subcommittee's support and passage of SB5522 and funding for the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) for the 2015 biennium.

The Oregon State Marine Board is an invaluable resource to parks and recreation agencies in the state. Its level of service to the boating community is without par. The agency is collaborative in its approach and offers essential boating education services that ensure safe recreation for the state's kayakers, canoeists, motorized boaters, and more.

Many of our park and recreation agencies' efforts are supported and enhanced by the work of the OSMB. Many city, county, and district park and recreation agencies' service areas include public waterways that are made better by OSMB's work. In partnership with OSMB, local agencies have built, maintained, and enhanced boating facilities on more than 225 bodies of water across Oregon. In particular, OSMB's facilities grants and support provide local agencies much-needed resources to maintain and expand access public recreation on our beautiful waterways. These funds are matched locally, approximately 3:1, ensuring that state dollars are well-leveraged and wisely invested in public boating facilities and resource conservation. Quite simply, without the financial support and technical expertise provided by OSMB, many local park and recreation agencies simply could not continue to provide the public with safe, quality, recreational access to Oregon's waters.

We strongly encourage passage of SB5522 to ensure adequate funding for the Oregon State Marine Board to enable this important and effective state and local partnership to continue to thrive and serve the public.

Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to contact me or Cindy Robert, ORPA's lobbyist, if we may offer any additional information to the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Redman
Executive Director

c: Don Horton, Co-Chair, ORPA Legislative Committee
Justin Cutler, Co-Chair, ORPA Legislative Committee
Cindy Robert, ORPA Lobbyist (503.260.3431)