



March 31, 2015

To: House Transportation and Economic Development Committee

The Honorable Caddy McKeown, Chair
The Honorable John Davis, Co-Chair
The Honorable Chris Gorsek, Co-Chair

The Honorable Cliff Bentz
The Honorable Jodi Hack
The Honorable John Lively
The Honorable Susan McLain

Re: Support of HB 2459

On behalf of nearly 1,000 members of the Oregon Recreation and Park Association (ORPA), a statewide 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is to support parks and recreation in Oregon through leadership, education, networking, and advocacy, I am writing to encourage the Committee's support and passage of HB 2459 to increase registration and titling fees of boats, floating homes, and boathouses in Oregon. We support this relatively modest fee increase, which has not been adjusted since 2003.

The funds that will be generated by this fee increase have a two-fold benefit: those who pay the fees (boaters and water-dwellers) receive direct benefits from the increase through maintained/enhanced services and facilities. Similarly, local park and recreation providers whose facilities include waterways benefit directly from the increase in the following ways.

- Funds are dedicated to the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB), which provides essential waterway maintenance and helps to ensure the safety of Oregon's waters.
- These funds help to ensure that OSMB can continue to support local recreation providers through the Maintenance and Enhancement Program (MAP), which provides matching funds for local jurisdictions to maintain and enhance boating facilities and waterways access. In the 2013-15 biennium, these funds numbered more than \$2.3 million in awards, which were matched locally by nearly 3:1 – an excellent leverage rate for state resources.
- These funds will ensure that OSMB can continue to provide local jurisdictions with funding to support marine law enforcement.

It is hard to imagine that Oregon has *not* increased registration fees in a dozen years. The private sector certainly would not impose such constraints on its operations, and OSMB should not be forced to do so either. Further, in an era when local parks and recreation agencies' funding is challenged, these important maintenance and safety grant programs provided by OSMB provide essential support for local jurisdictions – with the added benefit to the state of stretching state revenues by adding local funds to the cause of maintenance and enhancement of Oregon's waterways. ORPA wholeheartedly supports this fee increase and encourages the committee to do so as well by passing HB 2459.

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 Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Redman", written in a cursive style.

Stephanie Redman, Executive Director

c: Don Horton, Chair, ORPA Legislative Committee
Cindy Robert, ORPA Lobbyist (503.260.3431)
Steve Lambert, OPA Legislative Chair