



Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Conservators of the Peace

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April 1, 2015

To: Members of the House Transportation and Economic Development Committee

From: John Bishop, Executive Director Oregon State Sheriffs' Association

Re: HB 2459

Chair McKeown and members of the House Transportation and Economic Development Committee, for the record my name is John Bishop and I am the Executive Director of the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association. This letter is on behalf of the Oregon State Sheriffs' Association to express our support for HB2459.

Throughout Oregon, many Sheriff's Offices are partnering with the Oregon State Marine Board, in keeping our water ways safe by enforcing boating safety laws, educational programs to the boating public, and responses to water emergencies. The Sheriffs' Association supports this bill (HB2459) for a fee increase to help generate revenue in supporting these very important services to Oregon's recreational boaters.

HB 2459 will help the Marine Board fund the Sheriff's Offices in this very important partnership. Fees for the Marine Board have not been increased for 12 years, and a 17% reduction in fuel consumption has had a drastic effect in funding Marine Programs throughout the state. However the amount of boating in Oregon has not decreased despite fewer registered boats.

At this time no fee is charged to non-motorized boats, and this segment of boating has exploded, in some counties 50% of the calls are from this category. Sheriff's Marine Programs have found themselves dealing with these boaters during all aspects of marine patrol, inspections, and water emergencies. This increase will help, but motorized boaters cannot continue to single handily support this important work.

This fee increase will only give us a 1.81% increase to help with these expenses. This is better than an 11.6% decrease, whereby some Sheriffs would be faced to closed their programs, or at the very least curtail their patrols, and would be unable to have boats on the water ways where they are needed.

John Bishop
Executive Director,
Oregon State Sheriff's Association