



Metro | *Making a great place*

March 25, 2015

Representative Caddy McKeown, Chair
House Transportation and Economic Development Committee

Re: Support for HB 2459

Dear Chair McKeown and Members of the Committee:

Please accept this letter in support of HB 2459 and the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB). The State Marine Board has been a tremendous partner for Metro and many other agencies across the State of Oregon in marine facility care, planning, renovation and maintenance. In the last decade alone, the Marine Board has partnered with Metro, the Oregon Department of Fish and Game and Federal Agencies to provide over \$6 million of improvements to boating facilities in the Portland metropolitan region. Those dollars have positively impacted millions of boaters during that time.

HB 2459 increases fees charged by the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) for registration and titling of certain watercraft. The current OSMB fee schedule has not been updated since the 2003 legislative session. OSMB fees are dedicated revenues and are statutorily required to remain within the OSMB budget, directly benefiting boaters. OSMB also provides funding to local entities for marine law enforcement. Without an increase, funding provided to local facility providers and law enforcement agencies will be curtailed.

One of the strongest OSMB programs is the Maintenance Assistance Program (MAP), which gives funds to local jurisdictions for the maintenance and operations of boating facilities. This program helps provide access to Oregon's waterways and the MAP funds are crucial to local governments. These funds are matched at an approximate rate of 3 to 1 by local entities, further leveraging boater dollars. In addition, funds are provided for capital improvements at boating facilities to maintain access points that are key to many local economies.

OSMB success is vital to the operations of local governments in providing safe, affordable access to Oregon's waterways. Of the 946 boating access points statewide, 812 are operated by public agencies. Over \$180 million in facility needs have been identified across 225 water bodies in each of Oregon's 36 counties. There is much more work to be done. As a result, we strongly support of the State Marine Board and passage of HB 2459.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Justin Patterson".

Justin Patterson, Director
Parks and Property Stewardship