



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

State Marine Board

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House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Representative Brian Clem, Chair
Representative Susan McLain, Vice-Chair
Representative Sherrie Sprenger, Vice-Chair
Representative Greg Barreto
Representative Sal Esquivel

Representative Caddy McKeown
Representative Karin Power
Representative David Brock Smith
Representative Brad Witt



Dear Chair Clem, Vice-Chair McLain, Vice-Chair Sprenger and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on HB 2883. This bill would permanently prohibit an outfitter and guide who is convicted for unlawfully taking fish and wildlife with a culpable mental state from obtaining an outfitter/guide registration through the Marine Board.

The Marine Board (Board) has no position on this bill, but would like to provide some background on the Guide and Outfitter program. There are currently 1,419 outfitters and guides. Outfitting and guiding services include: boating, angling, hunting, jeep touring, backpacking, alpine mountain climbing, camping, trips utilizing pack animals, dog sled trips, whitewater float, rafting, drift boat, kayak and canoe trips.

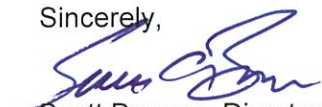
In 2013, the Legislature passed HB 2039 that raised the fee for outfitting and guiding in Oregon. The current fee of \$150 provides funds to conduct more thorough background investigations, support enforcement and prosecution of illegal guiding activities. Since the law was passed in 2013, sixteen guide certifications have been suspended and 33 guides have received conditional registrations.

Statute currently allows or requires the Board to suspend, revoke or deny a guide and outfitter registration for a period up to 24 months for a variety of felony or misdemeanors related to suitability to serve as a guide or for serious or repeated violation of certain fish and wildlife laws. The law also requires that any person who has a certificate of registration revoked pursuant to a court order is ineligible to register for 24 months from the date of the court order.

Over the last two years, the Board has three cases that would have resulted in lifetime suspensions under HB 2883. The first is a fishing guide who received seven citations for Fish and Wildlife violations, with intent, in a five year period. The guide received a court suspension of fishing privileges for two years; the Board revoked his guide registration for two years. The second case is a hunting guide who illegally took trophy wildlife, with intent. The guide received a court suspension of hunting privileges for three years; the Board revoked his guide registration for two years. The third case involved another fishing guide with two over-limit violations, with intent, in three years. This guide received a court suspension of fishing privileges for two years; the Board revoked his guide registration for two years.

I'm happy to answer any questions that you have.

Sincerely,



Scott Brewen, Director

