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To: htp.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov
Subject: HB 2320: Non-Motorized Boating Program
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First: Everyone, on any type of watercraft or flotation device, irrespective of age or size of craft / device, should be required to wear a personal flotation device (PFD) at all times while on public waterways. That's a no-brainer.

However, I do have serious problems with the proposed fees on non-motorized watercraft. The argument for the fees seems to focus on two issues:

1. **Use of boat ramps.** Kayakers and canoeists hand-carry their small boats and drop them into the water at whatever point is convenient. Sometimes that is a boat ramp. BUT, kayakers and canoeists do not need boat ramps, and don't contribute to "ramp conflicts and congestion" simply because they do not launch their boats from trailers. **Imposing fees on kayakers and canoeists to "help cover the cost of boat ramps they use" is not only unfair, it's absurd.**
2. **Marine Board funding:** Kayakers and canoeists are the boating group with the lowest rate of enforcement action and need for water rescue. It is users of high performance motorized boats, and "river floaters" (inner tubes, pool toys, and other floatables) that utilize the bulk of these services. Why penalize conscientious and responsible boaters with additional fees to cover the costs of the minority? **Instead:**
 - substantially increase serious boating infraction penalties (*e.g.*, operating while intoxicated; dangerous or reckless operation), and,
 - start charging for water rescue activities (no one has a problem paying for ambulance services when they are sick or injured, so why is there an expectation that water rescue services should be provided for free?)

The irresponsible / negligent minority of boaters and floaters requiring Marine Board supported law enforcement and rescue services should be the ones paying to have these services available... not everyone else.

Regarding the invasive species permit fee:

- 1) My wife and I own two kayaks; one 10 foot and one 12 foot. I've never understood the rationale for believing that the (slightly) longer boat is somehow more likely to harbor and transport invasive species. But that's just an aside....
- 2) Our kayaks are inflatable. They are cleaned, dried thoroughly, and folded up and the end of use and before being transported. The potential for these types of boats to harbor and transport invasive species is ZERO. **There should be a blanket permit exemption provided in the invasive species permit program for inflatable watercraft designed and rated to carry 3 persons or less.**

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