

TESTIMONY
OF
Jim Paul
Director
DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS
On House Bill 4138
Senate Committee on Business and Transportation
February 21, 2018

Dear Chair Beyer and members of the Committee. I am Jim Paul, Director of the Department of State Lands, and I am here today to testify regarding House Bill 4138. The department has no position on this bill.

The bill makes an addition to ORS 830.175 by specifically allowing the department to request that the Oregon State Marine Board develop special regulations regarding the operation of boats to minimize or prevent erosion. It is our understanding that the intent of this bill is for the department to have the option of evaluating potential erosion from boating activities on state-owned submerged and submersible lands. The department, acting by and through the State Land Board, is charged with managing these lands for the State of Oregon.

The bill doesn't require any action to be taken by the department, and only allows the department to make a request to the Oregon State Marine Board should it determine that boating activities have led to an increase in erosion of state-owned submerged and submersible lands.

The department does not currently have staff with the expertise necessary to determine the effects of erosion on state-owned submerged and submersible lands by boating activities. Thus, to exercise the option of making such a request, the department would likely need to find additional resources (such as funding for a research study) to examine this issue on state-owned waterways.

Also, if the request was likely to result in public use restrictions, it may require State Land Board approval before the department could act.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions.