



# OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

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TO: Rep. Witt Chairman,  
Members, House Natural Resources Comm.

FROM: Paul Donheffner, Legislative Committee Chair

Subject: HB 2080 - Marine Board Increase in Boat Registration Fees

Many OHA members use motorboats, both to access hunting areas and for fishing and other activities. We are concerned by the very significant request to increase boat fees.

In 2015, the OSMB received a 50% increase in registration fees, from \$3/ft to the current \$4.50/ft. In addition, the agency benefited from higher gasoline taxes. It appears the agency has a spending problem, because it is now seeking another 32% increase in fees.

The effect of 32% ON TOP OF 50% is a doubling of the fee in just 4 years - from \$3/ft to \$5.95/ft. Does the agency really need 2 major fee increases in such a short period of time? And do they have the budget precision to know it needs to be \$5.95? Not \$5.97 or \$5.91? Honestly!

This is a very significant request to increase fees. It would put Oregon's fee as the highest among nearby western states. For example, Idaho charges \$30 up to 12', and \$2/ft over 12'. So a 20' boat costs \$30 plus \$16, or \$46. Oregon will charge \$119 or \$59.50/yr.

California charges even less. A 2 year renewal is \$20.

The number of registered boats in Oregon has been declining. Higher fees just add to this decline. Higher pricing will not solve this downward spiral. The OSMB should go to great lengths to live within its means, at least for a few more years.

Please take a hard look at this fee increase.