

# Willamette RIVERKEEPER®

## Testimony to the Oregon Senate Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources February 21, 2019

Re: SB 47

Chair Dembrow, Vice Chair Olsen and Members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

On behalf of Willamette Riverkeeper I submit these comments in support of SB 47. Willamette Riverkeeper works to protect and restore the Willamette River's water quality and habitat, and as part of our work we get hundreds of people in canoes and kayaks each year in our River Discovery Education Program. We also partner with Oregon State Parks and Recreation to implement the Willamette River Water Trail.

In our view, SB 47 can provide the necessary resources to the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) to better represent the needs of non motorized boaters in Oregon. While a great majority of our rivers are free to use, and navigable, there is a need for increased access and education for paddlers.

While we have some concerns that the OSMB will create this new program with *transparency*, it seems if the program is implemented well it will provide tangible benefits. We also feel that this program will help increase representation of non motorized boaters on the Marine Board itself - which is much needed.

***We do however recommend that \$3 per annual permit, and \$5 for the biennial permit be directed toward water based law enforcement at the county level.*** The OSMB is well aware of the need for increased enforcement, and this issue has been discussed repeatedly over the last few years. Non motorized users would like to pay into enforcement that benefits all boaters.

I appreciate your consideration of these comments, and thank you for your service to the State of Oregon.

Sincerely,



Travis Williams  
Riverkeeper & Executive Director