



February 21, 2019

Senate Committee On Environment and Natural Resources
Co-Chairs Senator Dembrow, Vice Chair Senator Olsen
900 Court Street NE, Room HR C
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: SUPPORT FOR SB 47

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

On behalf of Oregon Outdoors, I write today in support of SB 47. Oregon Outdoors (www.oregonoutdoors.org) is a recently-established and rapidly growing coalition of more than thirty outdoor recreation businesses, recreation organizations, and conservation groups committed to the preservation of Oregon's outdoor assets for future generations.

Our coalition has established a common set of legislative priorities that seek to protect and expand outdoor recreation access and infrastructure, promote the outdoor recreation economy in Oregon, support responsible recreation, and provide support and increased access to the outdoors to underserved and vulnerable populations. We find that SB 47 is much in-line with these broad coalition goals for outdoor recreation.

Oregon Outdoors particularly supports the creation of a mechanism to support grants for non motorized waterway access. Safe and reasonable access to our states public waterways is important to sustaining both local recreation economies and for fostering community health. We strongly support the creation of a fund that is dedicated to being utilized for projects that serve non-motorized waterway users.

Responsible recreation is additionally one of our coalition priorities for this legislative session, and the waterway access fund helps to support that by funding grant opportunities for boater safety and education. The fund is also to be used to better accommodate underserved communities in our state - which is an important and widely supported initiative by our broad coalition of outdoor industry interests.

Further, Oregon Outdoors supports paying user fees when the resultant revenue is used in a direct and transparent way to support the communities and users who contribute the funds.

The abundance of outstanding river resources is a reason why people continue to live, work, recreate and travel to the state. Protecting rivers and access to them is important to conservation and recreation as it ties to strong local economies and community health. For these reasons, we support SB 47.

Thank you for your time, and the opportunity to give written testimony on SB 47.

Sincerely,

Hugh Morrison

Hugh Morrison
Network Coordinator - Oregon Outdoors

Oregon Outdoors Members



outdoor project



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