



February 27, 2019

Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources
Chair Senator Taylor, Vice Chair Representative Reardon
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: SUPPORT FOR SB 5521 and MARINE BOARD BUDGET

Co-Chairs Taylor and Reardon and Members of the Joint Subcommittee:

On behalf of Oregon Outdoors, I write today in support of the proposed budget for the Oregon State Marine Board. 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. Although we support strong funding for all of Oregon's natural resource agencies, the Oregon State Marine Board plays a particularly valuable role in supporting law enforcement, recreation response on public waterways and in providing safe and accessible recreation on waterways for both residents and visitors of our state.

Oregon Outdoors has been pleased with the ongoing efforts from the OSMB to better engage with and understand the needs of non-motorized waterway users. We have been happy to see the agency take collaborative and meaningful approaches to the work that they do, to ensure that broad recreation interests are considered and met in their planning for services, budget and programming for the future. We hope to continue to see these efforts from the agency, and continue to see strong and collaborative relationships between agency, users and visitors.

We support packages 102, 302, 402 (Waterway Access/SB47) as part of the OSMB budget as it can provide the necessary resources to the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) to better represent the needs of non motorized boaters in Oregon. As many of our rivers are increasingly highly visited, there is a need for increased access and education for paddlers, as well as the ability to better serve currently underserved communities who enjoy our waterways.

We additionally strongly support continued funding for marine law enforcement and recreation response (44% of the OSMB budget), which provides continued support for SAR and our Sheriffs. We understand and appreciate the great challenges that SAR and emergency response professionals in the state face in terms of fiscal support and limited resources, and without continued support from agencies such as the OSMB, there would be major impacts to service, training and equipment for our first responders and law enforcement officers and those who rely on their services.

We urge your strong support for the elements of the OSMB budget proposal before you today and hope to continue strengthening funding for Oregon's recreational assets, and recreation response (such as SAR) in budgets to come.

Sincerely,

Hugh Morrison
Network Coordinator - Oregon Outdoors

Oregon Outdoors Members



outdoor project



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