

March 9, 2021

Dear Oregon Senate Committee on Energy and Environment:

I write to you today **in support of Senate Bill 740** which creates OSMB funding to remove abandoned and derelict vessels from state waterways, and increases the current \$150K derelict boat fund cap to \$1 million.

It's no secret that abandoned and derelict vessels (ADVs) have become a growing problem over the last few years. They are a blight on our waterways. End-of-life boats are often free and readily available to those who are not interested in maintaining or insuring them. These persons simply walk away when their boat sinks and find another free boat to live on. It is expensive to remove and dispose of these vessels - \$3000 - \$40,000 each.

So far, the OSMB has done a good job removing abandoned and derelict vessels with their limited funding. By combining it with comparable funds from the DSL, together they remove about 40 abandoned vessels per year. But that only begins to address the growing number of boats that sink and pollute our waterways.

As a registered boat owner, I am quite willing to pay the \$5 fee increase proposed by **SB 740** to fund the removal of ADVs that are polluting our rivers and lakes. **SB 740** will infuse the OSMB with needed funding to continue the good work they are already doing. The OSMB already has the staff and program infrastructure in place, so that 100% of the designated, proposed funding will be used directly for abandoned and derelict vessel removal.

In addition to increased funding, **SB 740** will increase the current \$150K funding cap to allow additional boater fees to be used directly for abandoned and derelict vessel removal.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge you to join me **in support SB 740** for the benefit of our state's waterways. Thank you.

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