



Columbia River Yachting Association
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Thank you Chairman Beyer, Vice Chairwoman Findley and members of the committee.

My name is Doug Romjue, and I am the President of the Columbia River Yachting Association (CRYA). Our group represents many of the boating clubs and organizations in Oregon with representation of close to 3,000 boating members. I am a member of two yacht clubs as well as a longtime leader of the Christmas Ships parade in the Portland area. I am also a board member of WOOO, and truly active in the boating community including offshore fishing in ports such as Garibaldi, and the Astoria area.

Our goal at CRYA is to maintain, create and enhance the boating experience and opportunities in and around Oregon waterways. We support the HB740 to help fund the much needed support of the removal of abandoned and derelict vessels on our waterways. Sadly, so many of these identified vessels are either at existing boating destinations or ever so slightly away from them as that is where most of the vessels end up for ease of access. This creates not only an increasing eyesore for everyone, but also safety issues as many of them are so poorly anchored or attached to mooring locations causing fears of breakaway problems during any number of weather related issues they are subject to. For many years, it was what ever happened to the "River Queen" restaurant boat. Now however, just about every stretch of waterway has multiple abandoned, sunk, or dangerously located vessels and the numbers just continue to grow. You can cross over the I-5 Bridge coming into Oregon and see two very large examples located near the Old Jantzen Beach Red Lion docks. Both vessels are large, not maintained, and covered with graffiti and garbage.

Our organization has fully embraced increases in vessel registration over the years hoping that it would improve some of these ever increasing problems. Sadly, the new fees have not created an equal portion of the budgets for the control of the issue of abandoned vessels and thus the need for a specific fund dedicated to the removal of these dangers to navigation and environmental impacts.

We have been working with the local river patrols and the OSMB on highlighting the issues and working to help direct funds to where they will be most needed. Sadly, there just isn't enough to even keep up with the worsening problems and we need to find a solution that will not only meet the current needs, but drive the issue to the point where everyone can take a boat outing without encountering so much disappointing "scenery" in the outing.

Thank you for your consideration of SB 740 as we feel it is an easy and great step forward in the elimination of this visual and environmental issue.

We are aware of Senate Bill 840, but feel that the cost potential to the average boater to try and create a county specific program for such vessel removal seems like a step backwards as there is already a good plan and responsible agency handling things.....it just needs to be better funded.

Regards, Doug Romjue – President, Columbia River Yachting Association.