

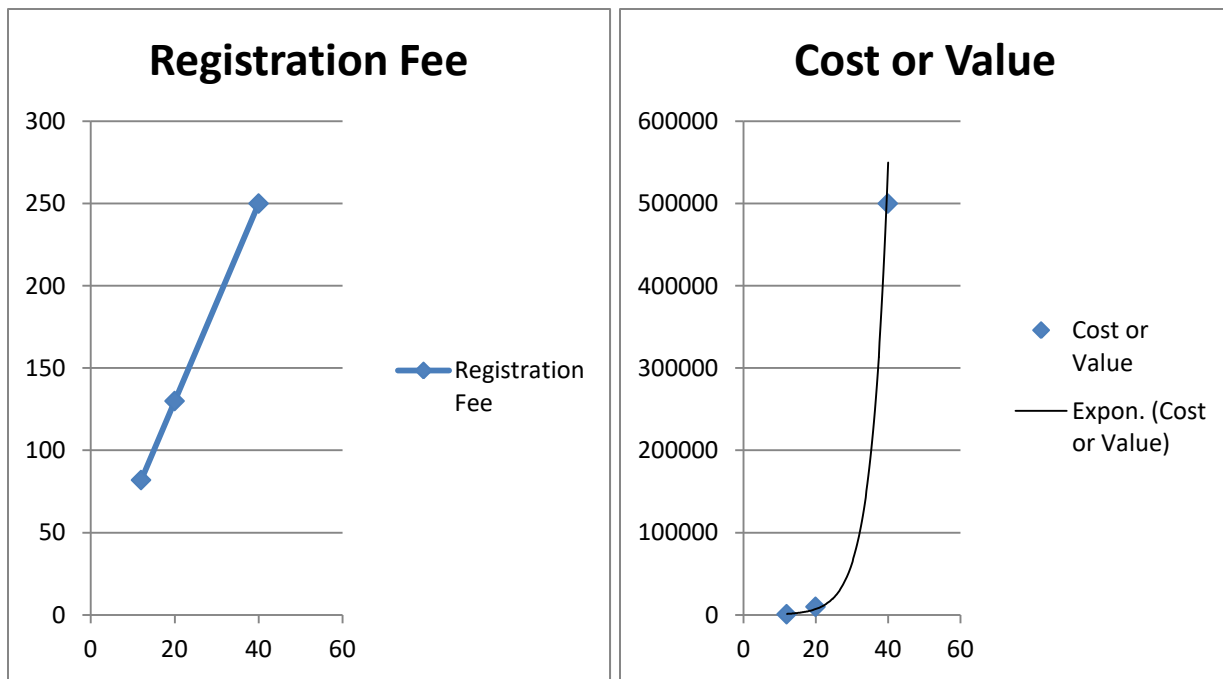
TO: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

FROM: Elizabeth Graser-Lindsey  
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DATE: March 9, 2021

RE: Opposition to SB 740

I oppose SB 740 because it would make a regressive registration fee structure for boats even more regressive. I support collecting the funds to clean up derelict boats, but this is a good time to correct the regressive nature of the fee.



**The fee is regressive** because it charges people with very inexpensive boats way more relative to the cost of their boat than it charges people with very expensive boats (consider the new value or consider the market value). **Both the \$6/foot (which increases linearly with the length of the boat) and the nature of a base fee (proposed to raise from \$5 to \$10) are both regressive.** **The value of the boat goes up near exponentially with length** shown here with some sample values (pick your own values and you will still see a near exponential relationship). **Importantly the weight and the volume of the boat go up near exponentially with the length and the cost of dealing with a derelict boat is likely to go up near exponentially with length as well.**

A regressive fee is a real disservice to ordinary Oregonians that want to introduce their families to water sports and it can completely block people of modest means.

**If you need to raise more money** (first fix the regressive nature of this fee and then), **put the new fee on the boats that cost the most to clean up and not on the base fee** that most harms the occasional user of a small boat who might be of modest means

I became aware of this problem with boat registration fees in Oregon a number of years ago when I bought a small, old Hobie Cat for my husband for Christmas from a neighborhood sale for \$200. While we had children at home we could barely make ends meet, so I quickly stopped registering the boat (for near \$80 per registration) and we used our 8-ft sailboat for teaching our children to sail, because we didn't have to register it though we were pretty crowded.