

Testimony on SB 740
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I hate to come out of retirement to testify on SB-740, but this is an unnecessary bill. I was the OSMB director from 1984 to 2010. During this 25 year period we managed the agency with one significant fee increase. In the past 4 years, boating registration fees have **doubled** and it appears there is no end in sight. At the same time state gas taxes paid by boaters also increased. The agency may have a spending problem, but not a revenue problem.

SB-740 would raise registration fees again. For the third time in three Legislative sessions. Why? Enough is enough.

Most derelict vessels on Oregon's waterways are commercial craft, usually fishing vessels that owners walk away from. Most sink and are fairly benign. If they are leaking fuel or contaminates, it becomes a Coast Guard or DEQ issue. After that, they are junk. Ok, maybe an eyesore until the next flood washes them away, but for the most part they are not threatening life, liberty or property.

Why should recreational boat owners be forced to pay to dispose of commercial vessels or homeless boats that people abandon? OSMB is trying to make this a full time program, so they want more money. But after doubling registration fees in the recent past, is there no check on how much the Legislature is willing to throw at this agency?

I encourage the Legislature to take a hard look at the existing agency budget to find the funds for this pet project.

In a year where people having been dealing with the pandemic, closed businesses, unemployment, wildfires, no schools, riots and uncontrolled murder in the streets of Portland, this is not the time to raise taxes and fees.

Raising fees on small boats is a big mistake. Please stop SB-740.