

I write to you in support of HB 2695.

There is no reasonable reason to oppose this bill because it is designed to help provide balance to the marine board so that the marine board will have access to more information and perspective when considering policy for the recreational and other use of Oregon's waterways. To date the marine board has been unable and unwilling to consider many important policy factors because they do not have the expertise on the board. Likewise, the current makeup of the board is not designed in a way to help ensure proper balance and policy making because the members can be biased, have personal reasons for voting in a certain way (ie business interests, recreational interests) which creates greater risk of decision making that is not based on good policy.

Please support this bill and provide the marine board with the balanced perspective of other agencies as well as a diversified membership to ensure that proper policy can be fully considered by the board when managing the use of our waterways in Oregon. The result will be better decision making and reduced conflict among the various users of the river as well as proper consideration of the natural ecology that might be impacted by our use of the rivers. Thank you.