

Thank you, Chairman Beyer, Vice Chairwoman Findley and members of the Committee.

My name is Andy Meyer. I am Executive Vice President of the Columbia River Yachting Association which represents 17 Yacht clubs on the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. We have around 1500 member families in the 17 clubs.

I am testifying in favor of SB 740. Over the years I have witnessed the change in the number of derelict and abandoned boats on the Columbia River, Willamette River, and the Multnomah Channel. Every year there are more boats anchored, or beached all down the rivers. The Oregon State Marine Board along with DSL and the different sheriff departments try their best to keep up with the problem but are overwhelmed because there are not enough funds to handle the costs. That is why we boaters are in favor of a very modest \$2.50 per year increase in our registration fees dedicated to solving the problem of removing these derelict and abandoned boats from our rivers and lakes. Not only are they unsightly along our rivers but, because these boats are not sea worthy, they have the real possibility of sinking and becoming a pollution and navigation hazard. For the most part they have no functioning head facilities and therefore the waste goes directly in to the water.

The OSMB is already set up to handle this because they have been working on it for many years with a very modest budget of \$150,000 per biennium. With the passage of this bill, they along with the DSL's matching \$150,000, will have over \$800,000 dedicated budget per biennium for derelict and abandoned boat removal. This should go a long way in stemming this growing problem.

I and my fellow boaters strongly urge you to pass SB740.

Thank you.