

# Oregon Outfitters & Guides Association



March 11, 2021

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Chair Witt and Co-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Hudson and Members of the Committee  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Opposition to HB 2695

Chair Witt and Co-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Hudson and Members of the Committee:

Since 1963, OOGA has served outfitters and guides licensed and operating in Oregon. We advocate for the preservation, growth and strength of the Oregon guiding and outfitting industry. Our industry provides sustainable jobs, enhances rural economies, and relies on the quality and availability of Oregon's diverse landscapes. We support investment in outdoor recreation and advocate for protection and conservation of our state's remarkable natural resources.

HB 2695 seeks modification to the membership of the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB). Over the last three years we have seen the Board and agency engaging the public differently and inviting a broader set of stakeholders into the agency decision making processes in myriad meaningful ways. We have participated in many of these efforts and are enthusiastic about them. Over the past years, we have seen the agency grow into what we hope to see from any state agency - one which values the process of stakeholder interests and truly cares about the diversity of interests of Oregonians. We applaud them for these efforts, and look forward to continuing to engage with them.

We oppose HB 2695 because the membership makeup reflected in the bill doesn't accurately reflect the OSMB's largest stakeholders- Guides and Outfitters, Boating Safety and Public Facility providers. This alone points to the challenge of changing the makeup of a Board - and poses the question: "how many more members might foreseeably need be included for all viewpoints to be represented?" We are additionally concerned with the bill because it seemingly attempts to change the makeup of a Board based on a single issue, which could prove problematic when the Board is responsible for statewide boating regulations.

If the Board membership were to be changed, we would prefer and advocate that the change was done in a more collaborative way and with input from both the OSMB and with participation and input from the largest stakeholders the Board and agency represents. For these reasons, we strongly oppose HB 2695 on behalf of Oregon's outfitting and guiding communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Priscilla Macy', is located below the 'Sincerely,' text.

Priscilla Macy - Executive Director  
Oregon Outfitters & Guides Association