

Please support HB 2695. The Oregon State Marine Board would benefit from additional board members and bring a better balance which is currently missing. One of the most notable additions would be a member with an environmental background who would bring expertise to the complex issues which involve boating and the resulting environmental impacts. The boating community has expressed strong support for science when discussing wave energy and shoreline impact as well as non-motorized boaters and river advocates. This bill will support both these communities needs and help give the board a broader perspective.

In addition, HB 2695 would grant 2 non-voting seats to Department of State Lands and Department of Environmental Quality. Department of State Lands is interested in the embankments that the boaters impact and Department of Environmental Quality has interest in water quality. Recreational boating does impact land and water quality. Having these two state agencies become part of Oregon State Marine Boards discussions is essential to improving policy making now and in the future.

This bill will only improve the Oregon State Marine Boards ability to be an effective state agency and give the public what they expect when rule making and that is rules based on knowledge not that of corporate interests.