

Submitter: Darby Collins

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural
Resources

Measure: SB5521

Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

Re: Support for SB 5521 - Relating to financial administration of the State Marine Board

Dear Chair Dembrow, Co-Chair Pham and members of the Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources,

I am writing in support of SB 5521 and the recommended budget for the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB.)

The Oregon River Safety & Preservation Alliance (ORSPA) is a nonprofit organization comprised of water sports enthusiasts, paddlers, boaters, fishermen, nature lovers, riverfront farmers and property owners. Our mission is to preserve Oregon's rivers for everyone by supporting policies and programs that balance the needs of different types of river users, improve safety and protect people and property while minimizing adverse environmental impacts so our waterways remain viable as recreation for a wide range of users for generations to come.

We appreciate and applaud the work that the Oregon State Marine Board has been doing to increase safety and equitable recreational access for all waterway users throughout the state. OSMB's efforts to improve infrastructure for non motorized water users has helped improve waterway access for many underserved communities. We also appreciate that OSMB works tirelessly to seek more and better ways to communicate on how to recreate safely on Oregon's waterways.

We are especially excited about their proposal to hire boater safety advocates. This is a proactive and efficient approach to further improving safety awareness and helping promote greater knowledge of waterway rules and regulations. It will also help reduce the burden that law enforcement faces in educating waterway users about how to operate safely, understand boating rules and be a safe and courteous boater. It is a fabulous and smart proposal and we urge you to support their budgetary needs to implement it.

In summary, we strongly support the Marine Board budgetary proposals and urge you to fully fund them as proposed in SB 5521.

Sincerely,

Darby Collins
ORSPA President