

Submitter: Glenn Fee

On Behalf  
Of:

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

Measure: SB5521

Dear Joint Subcommittee on Natural Resources,

On behalf of Tualatin Riverkeepers (TRK), I am writing to express my support that the Oregon State Marine Board's (OSMB) budget be maintained at its current service level, with no fee increases, new fees, or new positions.

TRK is a community-based organization that protects and restores the Tualatin River watershed. We build watershed stewardship through engagement, advocacy, restoration, access, and education. We are a voice for the Tualatin River and its surrounding communities, including all who ply its waters with motorized and non-motorized watercraft - drift boats, fishing skiffs, stand-up-paddleboards, kayaks, canoes, and inflatables.

Access to nature and outdoor recreation are highly valued by Oregonians. We support the OSMB's work that invests state boater fee funds as well as federal funds in outreach projects that invite underrepresented communities into boating and sets them up for success by providing education and safety equipment. Their efforts to improve public access to Oregon's waterways, maintain current access facilities, and provide education on water safety and conservation issues greatly enhance our own outreach efforts in the Tualatin River watershed.

Specifically, TRK's programs have directly benefitted from Waterway Access Grant financial support, allowing us to increase access to the Tualatin River for underrepresented communities through our collaborative work with city, county, regional, and state governments as well as nonprofits and local businesses. This funding support, as well as information and consultation provided by OSMB staff, has dramatically enhanced TRK's ability to serve our communities. We're confident that support from OSMB – which has included site assessment and facility planning – will allow us to unlock additional commitments from local governments to significantly expand access to the Tualatin River.

It is my hope that the Oregon State Marine Board will be funded for the full recommended budget. We look forward to our continued work with the Oregon State Marine Board.

Thank you for your consideration and support,

Glenn Fee  
Executive Director  
Tualatin Riverkeepers