



TO: Joint Committee on Ways and Means; Subcommittee on Natural Resources
FROM: Oregon Recreation & Park Association
DATE: February 23, 2023
RE: Oregon State Marine Board Budget Request

On behalf of the nearly 1,000 member park and recreation agencies, professionals, and volunteers represented by the Oregon Recreation and Park Association (ORPA), I am writing to encourage the Subcommittee's support and passage of funding to the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) for the 2023-25 biennium.

The Oregon State Marine Board is an invaluable resource to parks and recreation agencies in the state. Its level of service to the boating community is without par. The agency is collaborative in its approach and offers essential boating education services that ensure safe recreation for the state's kayakers, canoeists, motorized boaters, and more.

Many city, county, and district park and recreation agencies' service areas include public waterways that are made better by OSMB's work. In partnership with OSMB, local agencies have built, maintained, and enhanced boating facilities on more than 225 bodies of water across Oregon. In particular, the Waterway Access program has allowed the agency to provide technical assistance and grants for non motorized boating access. Public boating facility providers across the state have been working hard to adapt to the rapid increase of non motorized boating and this program has been a good starting point to serve the boating community. Additionally, OSMB partners with our local, state and federal governments, as well as NGOs to increase opportunities for underserved communities to experience non motorized boating safely. This includes providing life jackets, Spanish language videos, hands-on paddling trips, adaptive equipment, and training.

As you can see, without the financial support and technical expertise provided by OSMB, many local park and recreation agencies simply would not be able to continue to provide the public with safe, quality, recreational access to Oregon's waters.

We strongly encourage the passage of the proposed budget to ensure adequate funding for the Oregon State Marine Board to enable this important and effective state and local partnership to continue to thrive and serve the public.

Thank you for your consideration, and please feel free to contact me or Cindy Robert, ORPA's lobbyist, if we may offer any additional information to the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

Amanda Parsons

Amanda Parsons
Executive Director
Oregon Recreation and Park Association

c: Cindy Robert, ORPA Lobbyist (503.260.3431)

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