



Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
RE: Oregon State Marine Board
Oregon State Legislature 2023 Regular Session
Joint Subcommittee on Natural Resources
Submission RE: SB 5521
February 27, 2023 1:00 PM

The Oregon State Marine Board provides critical functions to users of Oregon's water resources through a wide variety of important programs. Access information, safety information, registration of guides, watercraft registration, and funding for facility upgrades and non-motorized boat education and outreach are highly impactful programs that reach residents throughout the State of Oregon – with and without boats. For example, over the past two biennium's, the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership has received two OSMB Waterway Access Grants to provide on-water trips in the Estuary Partnership's two, 29-foot, Big Canoes to diverse, and underserved community groups without access to on-water experiences. Through these trips, the Estuary Partnership has worked with more than 20 community groups such as People of Color Outdoors, the Rose Community Development Corporation's Lents Youth Initiative, Coalition of Black Men, North Coast Q Center, Columbia County Mental Health, and many others to provide more than 560 people with 2-3 hour on water experiences geared towards sharing the wonder of Oregon's rivers, promoting on-water safety, and providing a unique, fun, safe, free, and often first-time boating experience to youth and adults. OSMB programs to support Clean Marinas, pump-out and dump stations, aquatic invasive species preventions, and abandoned derelict vessel removal are important programs that help protect water quality and species health in the lower Columbia River and other water bodies, and the OSMB's Boater Education card programs helps keep people in boats, in the water, and on the shoreline safe. Oregon is a state of water (lakes, rivers, bays, estuaries, coastlines, etc.) and the state's residents love interacting with that water, whether swimming, fishing, sailing, SUPing, kayaking, rafting, or cruising. The OSMB is a critical link to making that interaction safe, fun, and accessible.

Chris Hathaway
Community Programs Director
Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership
400 NE 11th Ave
Portland, OR 97232
chathaway@estuarypartnership.org