



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## State Marine Board

435 Commercial St NE Ste 400

PO Box 14145

Salem, OR 97309-5065

Main (503) 378-8587

Fax (503) 378-4597



March 14, 2019

Chair Brad Witt  
Vice-Chair Chris Gorsek  
Vice-Chair Sherrie Sprenger  
Representative Greg Barreto  
Representative Caddy McKeown  
Representative Jeff Reardon  
Representative David Brock Smith

RE: HB 2835 Establishes public right to recreational use of certain public use waterways.

Dear Chair Witt, Vice-Chair Gorsek, Vice-Chair Sprenger and Committee Members,

HB 2835 seeks to protect and provide opportunities to enhance public access to Oregon waterways. The Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) has no position on this bill but offers the following testimony based on our experience as the state's recreational boating agency.

OSMB was established in 1959. While the agency has accomplished a great deal in the past 60 years, two notable achievements are: furthering recreational boating safety and providing grants for a substantial number of public boating access facilities throughout the state. Public access to the water is achieved through a coordinated effort between multiple partners; resulting from long-term planning and funding availability. While financial sources are always a concern for public projects, HB 2835 calls for partnering and planning as opportunities for public access are presented. These two components, partnership and planning, are critical first steps in any public access project.

Oregonians love recreating outdoors and a great number of them are drawn to their public waterways. When structured access doesn't exist in an area, it is not uncommon for citizens to create their own access. As the self-created water access area gains popularity, concerns for safety and environmental impact develop. Public access projects plan for both safety and minimizing long-term environmental impact. HB 2835 creates a pathway for agencies and partners to collaborate and plan projects.

OSMB recognizes that public participation and coordination are critical components when fulfilling the duties charged to any public lands and waterways agency. As such, OSMB believes an open, inclusive process for any access to public waterways is in line with our agency's efforts and mission to engage the public and serve the people of the state.

HB 2835 creates a pathway to improve and protect access to waterways in the state. It will also provide an opportunity for improved coordination between agencies, partners, stakeholders and members of the public.

If I may provide any additional information or clarification, I can be reached at (503) 378-2617.

Sincerely,

Larry Warren, Director

