



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

State Marine Board

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May 2, 2019

Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senator Alan Olsen, Vice-Chair
Senator Cliff Bentz
Senator Floyd Prozanski
Senator Arnie Roblan

Re: HB 2835-A Requires state agencies to report on certain activities related to public access sites.

Dear Chair Dembrow, Vice-Chair Olsen and Senate Committee Members,

HB 2835-A seeks to protect and provide opportunities to enhance public access to Oregon waterways. Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) supports this bill.

OSMB was established in 1959. While the agency has accomplished a great deal in its 60-year history, the agency's two notable achievements are enhancing boating safety on the water and funding a significant amount of the public boating access across the state.

Public access to the water does not happen without coordinated effort. It often takes multiple partners, long term planning and funding to come together at just the right time. Partnership and planning are two critical components that serve as important first steps in any public access project. While funding is always a concern for public projects, HB 2835-A calls for partnering and planning as opportunities present themselves for public access.

Oregonians love recreating outdoors and a great number are drawn to 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 arise. Public access projects plan for both safety and minimizing long term impact to the environment.

OSMB recognizes 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 public waterway access is in line with our agency's efforts and mission to engage the public and serve the people of the state.

HB 2835-A creates a pathway to improve and protect access to waterways in the state. It also provides 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

