

Representative Paul Evans
900 Court St. NE H-471
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Representative Evans:

RE: HB 2695

I have been a boating enthusiast since I tipped a canoe over and dunked my father in Wallowa Lake in 1956. While I have traveled in fishing boats, commercial craft, and own two canoes, I recognize the duty of marine craft to operate safely and to respect other types of craft and the aquatic environment we are blessed with here in Oregon. Over the years as a public servant and a private citizen I have gained a broad understanding of the importance of providing balance to consideration of regulations affecting Oregon.

The Marine Board has the Goal of: "Serving Oregon's recreational boating public through education, enforcement, access and environmental stewardship for a safe and enjoyable experience." With the Vision of: "A collaborative community providing opportunities for all boaters to safely and respectfully experience Oregon's Waterways." This is a laudable goal and vision; however, the current makeup of the Board does not have the range of voices that provide a full representation for a collaborative community. If you look over their 2017-2022 Strategic Plan you will see an emphasis on motor boating.

House Bill 2695 will provide the balance of interested parties that share Oregon's waterways and better reflect constituencies that use Oregon waterways for a variety of purposes. The addition of an aquatic ecologist, representation of non-motorized craft and tribal communities will make the Marine Board a stronger public body representing a better balance of interests that use Oregon's waterways.

Please support HB 2695 for the improvement in the regulatory approach to watercraft in Oregon and improving the ability of the Marine Board to represent the entire community of users of Oregon's waterways.

Sincerely,



Kenneth F. Bierly
2308 Ptarmigan St. NW
Salem, OR 97304