

I support HB2695. This will help the Oregon State Marine Board make more informed and thoughtful decisions on the tough issues facing them.

HB2695 will help the Oregon State Marine Board improve its decision making and leadership by adding environmental expertise to its board to help guide staff in figuring out solutions to difficult issues on waterways throughout Oregon.

I have been attending OSMB board meetings for the past three years and I have seen the lack of information and qualitative data provided from staff to board members — even when requested. This has been deeply concerning to me.

I have watched the Board struggle and flounder trying to figure out what to do and the OSMB staff often lacks a strong bench in environmental or habitat issues.

This bill will help the Marine Board be a better board. It will add knowledgeable voices to help staff and ultimately the board fully consider environmental consequences before making a decision.

Adding non-voting members from other state agencies will help the OSMB staff and board better access and coordinate state resources. Everything from land use to habitat to public outreach can be improved by creating a more coordinated approach amongst state agencies to sharing information and seeking solutions concerning waterways across Oregon.

I urge you to support HB2695.

Sincerely,

Darby Collins

Willamette Greenway Alliance