

I am writing in support of SB 740 which would help the Oregon State Marine Board in its struggle to address the problem of abandoned, derelict and sunken vessels on Oregon waterways. These vessels create numerous problems ranging from hazards to navigation to being sources of pollution from feces, garbage, and other human wastes when used by squatters. The budget available to the Oregon State Marine Board to manage the removal of abandoned vessels is woefully inadequate considering the number of these vessels and the high costs associated with their removal and disposal.

I favor SB 740 over SB 840 because the additional increase in fees is reasonable and because the funds go to the Oregon State Marine Board, which is the government entity best able to manage the removal of abandoned vessels. Furthermore, while both bills are based on the pragmatic need to remove abandoned vessels, it seems unfair to subject owners of longer boats to higher fees when such owners bear no more culpability for the problem than owners of shorter boats. Likewise, length alone bears no relationship to the fair market value of a boat or its propensity to being abandoned.

Thank you.

Bert Krages