



March 12, 2021

Thank you Chairman Beyer, Vice Chairwoman Findley and members of the committee.

My name is Eric Pedersen and I am a native Oregonian. I have had the fortunate experience to be able to use all of Oregon's magnificent waterways since the late 70s. This love of the water developed into a career as I was able to be riding my bike to one of Oregon's pioneer boating establishments "Staff Jennings" during the 80s. This career path has continued as I am now the GM of Stevens Marine in Tigard Oregon.

During my tenure on Oregon waterways the continuing trend of the buildup of derelict boats continues to increase. This problem continues to expand as our local population increases and the useful lifespan of these boats comes to an end. The majority of the boats abandoned are built of materials that came to be popular in the late 1960s. Opposed to wood that would rot and decompose; the life of a fiberglass boat hull is far longer and will not decompose back into the environment. As this trend continues to mount a much larger ecological nightmare develops. Aside from the unsettling aesthetics and water hazard of these derelict boats a larger issue of water pollution increases as these boats often have fuel and sewage systems not properly decommissioned releasing contaminants directly into our watersheds.

Provided that the funds generated by these additional fees go directly towards maintaining the healthy beauty of our waterways, I am in full support. I want the users of our waterways to be responsible stewards in maintaining this incredible resource. Furthermore I want to ensure future generations get to have this fundamental experience which makes living here in the Northwest a unique gift.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Pedersen", written over a horizontal line.

Eric Pedersen

GM

Stevens Marine