

Oregon Outfitters & Guides Association



March 11, 2021

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Chair Witt and Co-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Hudson and Members of the Committee
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: SUPPORT FOR HB 2549

Chair Witt and Co-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Hudson and Members of the Committee:

Since 1963, OOGA has served outfitters and guides licensed and operating in Oregon. We advocate for the preservation, growth and strength of the Oregon guiding and outfitting industry. Our industry provides sustainable jobs, enhances rural economies, and relies on the quality and availability of Oregon's diverse landscapes. We support investment in outdoor recreation and advocate for protection and conservation of our state's remarkable natural resources.

HB 2549 seeks to have the Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) provide a centralized annual report on public access sites used to access floatable natural waterways. In 2019, HB 2835 was enacted to enhance waterway access on Oregon through common sense measures, and HB 2549 creates improvements and streamlining of the provision in that legislation that required the inventory of public access sites to public waterways in the state.

Public access to the waterways in our state is a crucial cornerstone for the significant, and increasing participation in outdoor recreation in Oregon. Further, public access to Oregon's lands and waters is the backbone of Oregon's thriving guiding and outfitting industry. Ensuring that the public is aware of public access to waterways, including any proposed closures to these access sites provides additional transparency and accountability when access sites are closed, both temporarily and in the longer term.

We encourage an support any measures that enable state agencies to work together and improve communications and engagement with the public - HB 2549 is a simple and common-sense way to do this. We urge you to support this measure, on behalf of Oregon's outfitting and guiding communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Priscilla Macy', is located below the 'Sincerely,' text.

Priscilla Macy - Executive Director
Oregon Outfitters & Guides Association