

I am writing to express my support HB 2695.

The Oregon Legislature should provide guidance on the composition of the Oregon State Marine Board. The Oregon Legislature hasn't examined the composition of the Marine Board in sixty years. The same old establishment no longer works.

In 1959, boating was much different, when licensing and safety were the focus of the Oregon State Marine Board. Environmental concerns did not really exist, nor did damages caused by recreational boaters. Waterway uses have expanded to include many non-motorized users from stand up paddlers, dragon boats, sailing clubs, rowing crews, all while boats and boating technology have changed.

Marine Board needs to be defined by statute to ensure that it is better equipped to consider the public as a whole. Expanding the number of members would give guidance in decision making.

The Marine Board has some very dedicated individuals and has recently added individuals who take the time to. Recently, NOAA Fisheries sent a letter to the OSMB to let them know wakes are creating take. We have seen no indication the Board has taken the comments of a Federal Agency into consideration.

The erosion of banks and damage to nearshore habitat tells us interagency cooperation is needed more than ever. The OSMB has stated on many occasions their authority was not clear. Let's give them the assistance they need in making tough decisions.

Joanne Criscione

Wilsonville