



City of Tigard

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

13125 SW Hall Boulevard, Tigard, Oregon 97223 • www.tigard-or.gov

February 23, 2023

Joint Subcommittee on Natural Resources
900 Court St., NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Support for Senate Bill 5521

Dear Chairs Senator Dembrow and Representative Pham and Members of the Joint Subcommittee on Natural Resources:

I am writing to express support for SB 5521.

The Mission of the Oregon State Marine Board – “Serving Oregon’s recreational boating public through education, enforcement, access and environmental stewardship for a safe and enjoyable experience” is very much in line with the City of Tigard vision for an equitable community that is walkable, healthy, and accessible for everyone. Our Parks and Rec Program takes this one step forward by ensuring our outdoor recreation opportunities, including boating, is accessible for all.

As a past recipient of Oregon State Marine Board grants, I understand that continued funding support through SB 5521 helps ensure communities along our waterways can leverage limited, local capital resources with grant funds through the Waterway Access and Boating Facilities Programs. The partnership between local jurisdictions and Oregon State Marine Board is critical to improving and enhancing our motorized and non-motorized boating facilities to best meet the growing demand for safe and accessible river enjoyment for all users and abilities.

We are currently engaged with the Oregon State Marine Board via a planning grant to design and engineer an ADA compliant and truly accessible boat dock with adaptive hardware that can serve the needs of non-motorized boaters who have physical limitations. It is our hope that with continued legislative support for the Oregon State Marine Board, the City of Tigard will be able to apply for additional Waterway Access grants to help construct this new accessible boating facility.

For the reasons listed above, the City of Tigard supports SB 5521. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rick Gruen

Rick Gruen
Parks, Recreation and Green Infrastructure Manager
City of Tigard