

Submitter: Tara Wilkinson

On Behalf Of: The Intertwine Alliance

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources

Measure: SB5521

Feb. 23, 2023

Dear Chairs Dembrow and Pham, and members of the Committee,

I'm submitting this testimony on behalf of The Intertwine Alliance in support of SB 5521, relating to the Oregon State Marine Board budget.

The Intertwine Alliance is a Portland metro coalition of 80 public, private and nonprofit partners working to preserve and nurture our regional system of parks, trails and natural areas – and to increase equitable access to them. This includes our waterways.

Partners of The Intertwine Alliance include many water stewards and advocates. The Marine Board has been a great partner with us in imagining a future with better community access, particularly on the Tualatin River. The Intertwine Alliance is especially interested in improved nonmotorized access.

Access to nature and outdoor recreation is deeply valued by communities throughout Oregon. We are supportive of the Marine Board's work to invest state boater fee funds and federal funds in projects to improve public access to Oregon's waterways, maintain current access facilities, and provide education on water safety and conservation issues such as aquatic invasive species.

We are thankful for the Oregon State Marine Board's leadership and partnership in removing barriers to water access for Oregonians while improving safety and conservation outcomes.

Thank you for your leadership,

Tara Wilkinson
Director
The Intertwine Alliance