

Co Chairs Sen Dembrow and Rep Pham and members of the Ways and means natural resources committee.

My name is Doug Romjue – I'm the Executive Vice President of the Columbia River Yachting Association. We support the Governor's request for 18.7 million dollars for removal of abandoned and derelict boats.

It has taken significant time to get this safety problem acknowledged by our state officials. Both safety and environmental problems have had a negative impact on the 1000'S of cruising boats that CRYA represents. The docks that we have helped pay for have been taken over or vandalized by the derelict boat population.

We are boaters. Sail, Power, paddle and we have seen changes with the growth of Abandoned and Derelict vessels on our waterways. An example is the recently completed removal of the CG cutter Alert and Tug Sakarissa downriver of the I-5 bridge after years of neglect and eventual sinking before being removed at significant cost. Now there is an abandoned boat that appears to have burned stuck up on the shoreline in the same location.

As river users we struggle to understand how this situation has been festering, and in turn making many destinations undesirable such as the Downtown Portland City Docks. We greatly appreciate the money appropriated last year for the cleanup of the Willamette River/Ross Island area by Senator Taylor for Abandoned and Derelict vessels. It is making a difference but just won't be near enough to solve the problem as it exists.

We fully support the Governor's budget request for the Healthy and Safe Waterways – Package 113 to make a real difference in cleaning up both the aesthetics of ADV's, but also the environmental impact that they have on our waterways.