



Baker County
1995 Third St
Baker City, OR 97814

February 6, 2025

Testimony for House Bill 2982

Baker County supports House Bill 2982 as it relates to increasing boating fees to provide for a fund that prevents and controls invasive plants and animals into Oregon waterways.

Please consider amending, modifying, or adding:

- 1) Remove "at least" and replace with "up to" in all boat footage references. This acknowledges that boats of any length can contribute to invasive species. Too, it removes the conflict and misunderstanding of individuals that do not understand why 10' boats contribute more than 9'6" boats. Continue replacing "at least" with "up to" throughout the totality of the Bill.
- 2) Section 2 (2): replace "primarily" with "solely" it is less ambiguous and does not allow for having to define "primarily".
- 3) Section 2(4): remove "holding five or more boats". We have local operators that will try to skirt around any hard number. It's more consistent and fair to all operators to not have a lower number of boats to hire.
- 4) Define "one-week" as "7-days" when defining permit validity.
- 5) Replace "6" (beginning in Section 3 (A)) with "up". Once again, it allows for all operators who own non-motorized boats to be under the same rule. Continue the replacement of "6" with "up" throughout the document.
- 6) Section 4 (a): Remove. "Free boating days" does not mean that the boat is free of invasive species.
- 7) Section 4 (g): Remove. Tribal boaters go from waterway to waterway and have the potential to spread invasive species.

This Bill has the potential to be outstanding if it recognizes that all boats, motorized and non-motorized, and all boaters/operators have the same responsibility to keep invasive aquatic species out of Oregon waterways. There should be no exceptions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. Please, do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doni".

Doni Bruland
Baker Co Nat Res/Parks Director

Supported by,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christina R. Witham".

Christina Witham
Baker Co Commissioner