

Submitter: Tim Butler
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2170

February 10, 2025

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

To: Co-Chairs Helm and Owens and members of the committee.

I am providing my personal support of House Bill 2170. My concern is the introduction and spread of invasive species that can have major negative impacts to Oregon's water resources. Prevention is our first line of defense of invasive species such as Zebra, Quagga and Golden mussels and aquatic noxious weeds, like Water Primrose and Flower Rush.

As the committee is well aware, Oregon has invested tens of millions of dollars for decades, into watershed restoration and protection of endangered fish species such as salmon. More resources need to go to programs like what is outlined in House Bill 2170 to enable more capacity at the state and local level to inspect boats, a primary vector, coming in from out of state with the potential introduction of invasive mussels and spread of aquatic noxious weeds.

These inspections are critical to prevent invasive species introductions into Oregon waters. If these aquatic invasive species are introduced and increase in population, they will have major impacts on fish, wildlife and overall water quality and availability. Invasive species impacts could undue much of the investment that has gone into resource protection like salmon recovery.

I am a boater and place a high value on Oregon's water resources. I currently sit as a private member on the OISC. I am also the retired Noxious Weed Control Program Manager at ODA.

I encourage the committee to support House Bill 2170.

Sincerely,

Tim Butler
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