

Submitter: Bryan McLean

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2170

February 11, 2025

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Re: HB 2170 Support

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, Members of the Committee,

As a member of Oregon Families for Boating, an organization committed to promoting safe and enjoyable recreational boating experiences for families across our state, I am writing to express our strong support for House Bill 2170.

This legislation authorizes the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Marine Board, and the State Department of Agriculture to enter into intergovernmental agreements with local governments or service districts to inspect check stations for aquatic invasive species.

As recreational boaters who enjoy towed water sports, we understand the importance of maintaining the health and integrity of Oregon's waterways. Aquatic invasive species pose a significant threat to our ecosystems, recreational activities, and the overall enjoyment of our natural resources.

By facilitating collaboration between state agencies and local entities, HB 2170 enhances our collective ability to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species. This proactive approach protects the environment and ensures that boating enthusiasts can continue to enjoy Oregon's lakes and rivers safely and responsibly.

We believe that empowering local governments to assist in operating check stations and inspecting watercraft will lead to more effective prevention efforts. Local authorities possess valuable knowledge of their respective areas and can respond swiftly to emerging threats.

Oregon Families for Boating supports HB 2170 and urges the committee to pass this important legislation. We are committed to working alongside policymakers, environmental groups, and the broader boating community to preserve the quality and accessibility of Oregon's waterways for current and future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bryan McLean
Co-owner, Northwest Boat Sports
Member, Oregon Families for Boating