



Doni Bruland, Director  
Natural Resources/Parks Office  
1995 Third St.  
Baker City, OR 97814

February 13, 2025

Re: HB 5120

Baker County supports the Oregon State Marine Board's (OSMB) budget as Introduced in House Bill 5120.

The OSMB is an integral part of the Hewitt and Holcomb Parks located near Richland, OR. They provide expert technical assistance on access, docks, ADA compliance, etc. and contribute to the Parks proficiency on everything from maintaining the floating restroom to answering boater's questions. It's critical to be able to continue this partnership, so please, fully fund the Administration and education budget.

The most essential partnership between OSMB and the County is providing law enforcement. Our reservoir is safer because of the trained Marine Deputies that patrol our waters. Please, fully fund the Marine law enforcement budget.

In the past, OSMB has provided funding for many Parks' projects that have improved our service to the boaters. Most recently, they funded a vault toilet at Hewitt Park, just above the boat ramp, that has been a huge success. Boaters no longer must walk nearly 700' uphill, through the parking lot, to use the restroom before launching. Funding for facilities construction and maintenance is so important to provide services to boaters. Without this funding, this project would not have been possible. The County fully supports this budget item.

Unfortunately, the invasive species Quagga mussels have been found upstream of our Parks in Idaho. Thankfully, none have been found locally and we'd like to keep it that way. Please, fund the Aquatic invasive species budget line in full. It will go a long way in educating boaters, boat inspections, and public outreach.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 5120.

Sincerely,

Doni Bruland  
Baker Co Natural Resources/Parks Dir

Supported by,

Christina Witham  
County Commissioner