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February 14, 2025

Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources

**Subject: Support for Continued Funding of Oregon State Marine Board**

Dear Senator Frederick, Representative Levy, and Members of the Committee-

I'm pleased to submit written testimony in support of the recommended budget for the Oregon State Marine Board. My organization, Tualatin Riverkeepers, is deeply engaged with the nonmotorized boating community on the Tualatin River in Washington County. The interest in boating has exploded over the past decade, and we've been pleased to engage with many new paddlers, introducing them to boating in a safe, environmentally conscious manner. This interest in paddling has come with new pressures on the Tualatin River and its tributaries, and the Oregon State Marine Board has been our leading partner in supporting safety and expanded accessibility along the river.

Through support from the Marine Board, we have not only been able to work with hundreds of new paddlers, but we've also deepened our relationships with nearly every municipality along the Tualatin River. The Marine Board supported our two-year Equitable Access work, and that work is directly leading to the development of new paddling programs and launches along the Tualatin River. Through this initiative, we have also attracted significant additional support from funding partners for a new Tualatin River Water Trail website and signage at 14 locations along the river. This investment in our work by the Oregon State Marine Board has had an amplifying effect that has greatly expanded our impact.

Tualatin Riverkeepers is fortunate to have a number of strong municipal and state partners, and Oregon State Marine Board stands at the top of the list. This is not a result of the agency's financial support of our work, but rather a result of the staff we work with at every level. They know our work, and they are both responsive to our needs and intuitive about reaching with opportunities that will make the Tualatin River safe and enjoyable for all boaters. Please consider continued funding for the critical and impactful work of the Oregon State Marine Board.

Best Regards,

Glenn Fee  
Executive Director