

**From:** Gary A  
**To:** [HTP Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** HB 2320 testimony - March 1st  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 28, 2017 11:49:31 AM

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Hello,

Please put a copy of my letter in the hearing record and share my letter with all members of the House Transportation Committee. They are meeting on March 1 to discuss House Bill 2320.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Gary B. Adams  
Corvallis, Oregon

I am very much opposed to HB 2320.

This poorly crafted bill seeks to create what is, in effect, a “DMV” for Oregon paddlers and recreationists. And, let’s be clear on this, all Oregon citizens who wish to step foot in a small non-motorized craft in our State, ever, even for five minutes, would be impacted by the passage of this bill, and would be cited and fined for non-compliance if found without a permit.

While the educational part of the bill would be voluntary for the “scoflaws” who choose not to buy a permit and are cited, there is every indication, per OSMB’s own public agenda records, that the OSMB hopes to establish a mandatory educational system for qualification to dip a paddle into Oregon’s waters.

I believe that if this bill passes that in the very near future everyone who would ever actually want to step into a paddle-able watercraft in Oregon will be forced to be

permitted and licensed. There would be fees, fines, citations, and ID cards.

I'm not comfortable that Oregon Mom & Dad and their two teens can't paddle half an hour on their annual trip to the lake without having to take mandatory classes and going through an expensive and unnecessary licensure process with this out-of-control State agency. This is not in the spirit of the outdoors-loving State of Oregon that throughout history has been nationally known for its scenic beauty and recreational opportunities.

The OSMB has a long tradition of dealing with power boats. Power boats and their owners like lots of facilities.

But, the rivers and lakes I paddle on in Oregon are unique because of their natural beauty and primitive feel. I enjoy that my put-ins and take-outs are easy to ignore as I float by. I do not believe that additional facilities, facilities that disturb water quality and fish habitat are needed or wanted by the many thousands of Oregonians and their families who paddle the waters of the State. These waters should remain as pristine as possible. These waters should not be defaced with four-lane cement boat ramps as the OSMB is really good at doing. Passage of this bill will result in the OSMB treating the resource that gives us so much joy pretty disrespectfully.

The OSMB has a long tradition of dealing with power boats. Power boats and their owners can be very dangerous.

It makes sense that the OSMB was started long ago to make sure that powerboats were educated and safe in the operations of their craft. After all, a 4000-pound speedboat operated unsafely or under the influence of alcohol can be a very dangerous weapon. For craft such as these, it is clearly in the public interest to make sure the powerboat operators are licensed and permitted. And, that is the role that the OSMB has played for many years. They are okay at doing that and they should stick to what they know instead of sticking it to non-motorized canoes and kayakers.

But, grandma in her 40-pound kayak is really not that much of a threat.

The OSMB is suffering from years of declining revenues as power boating popularity has declined. The OSMB now sees non-motorized paddlers as their new “cash cow” to keep their revenue-strapped agency going at its bloated level. Wouldn't Oregon legislators be wiser to ask why the OSMB is seeking to promote its agency on the backs of Oregon's paddling families instead of making those much-needed OSMB budget cuts to live within the OSMB's declining revenues?

In a time when there is so much uncertainty and the average Oregon family is struggling to get by, does it really make sense for legislators to impose a whole new boating permitting system and further expand existing regulations to make splashing in Oregon waters beyond the reach of many Oregonians and more costly for the

rest? Why would legislators want to sock it to every Oregon citizen just to support a declining, out-of-control, and increasingly unneeded State agency like the OSMB?

Should every Oregonian really have to buy a permit to float on water in a little paddle-powered boat?

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Gary B. Adams  
Corvallis, Oregon