



# Oregon Parks Association

February 28, 2017

Representative McKeown  
Chair, House Committee on Transportation Policy  
Re: HB 2320, Public Hearing 3/1/17, 8:00 AM

Chair McKeown and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon State Marine Board (OSMB) has long been a valued partner of park managers in the State of Oregon. Through a long and treasured history, the OSMB and parks and recreation providers have successfully constructed, maintained, improved, and operated boating access facilities on a variety of water bodies from the Pacific Ocean to the Snake River. State boaters have directly benefitted from the multitude of partnerships receiving facility improvements, many of which would not be possible without the high quality services and grant funding provided by the Facilities section of the OSMB.

Oregonians have repeatedly voiced their value for safe access to statewide water bodies for recreation purposes. Oregon's thirty six counties provide a vast amount of this desired access in the statewide recreation system. In recent years, County park managers have seen a large shift in the type of use that is occurring at boating access facilities. As many of you are aware, the use of non-motorized water craft and boats is growing widely in Oregon. In many cases, this new and increasing demand creates unique management challenges at boat ramps with conflicts between motorized and non-motorized use occurring. The need for non-motorized access points is greater than ever before. Unfortunately, in current structure, the OSMB is unable to fund solutions to the issue, as the agency is tasked with serving motorized boaters. The passage of HB 2320 creates a program that will benefit non-motorized boaters, as well as motorized boaters by providing funding for land managers for non-motorized access. Funding through the program will increase access to Oregon's waterways, decrease conflicts at access points, and better serve all of Oregon's boaters. HB 2320 provides the access that Oregonian's have been asking for.

The OSMB has gone to great efforts to include Oregonians in the process of drafting HB 2320 and the development of the proposed non-motorized boating program. It is OPA's hope that your committee will consider the benefits that the OSMB provides to local governments and Oregon boaters through the passage of HB 2320. OPA strongly recommends that the Chair and the members of the committee pass House Bill 2320.

Sincerely,

Steve Lambert  
Oregon Parks Association