

**From:** geoffrey laird  
**To:** [HTP Exhibits](#)  
**Subject:** Non motorized boat bill  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 01, 2017 6:16:38 AM

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I request this letter to be entered into consideration by the committee discussing the non motorized user fee bill.

Dear Oregonians,

I am a professional fishing guide who has recreated on Oregon's waterways my entire life. I cherish the freedom that flowing water provides and appreciate the tranquility that still water provides. I'm a member of Trout Unlimited and American Whitewater; both conservation organizations that strive to maintain open access to clean healthy water ways forever into the future.

I pay a healthy admittance fee for my professional and recreational pursuits. I have several motorized vessels and several non-motorized vessels that I use year round. I am the user that should be paying the OSMB the fees required to operate the required regulation, enforcement and enhancement of Oregon waterways and access points.

This proposed bill is bad legislation. It discriminates against lower socioeconomic groups by adding additional hurdles to accessing the public resource of Oregon's waters. It creates a bureaucratic nightmare of administration, enforcement, regulation and education for an agency that already struggles to provide efficient and effective return on dollars invested by state stakeholders; namely the OSMB.

If my family arrives at our annual campout and we have twenty people decide to jump into inner tubes, paddle boards, pool toys, kayaks, etc for an afternoon at the swimming hole, we will all have to procure daily passes and wear our life jackets while floating around in a few feet of water.

This bill is another fine example of a state agency searching high and low in an attempt to generate funds in a noneffective manner. As with many other regulatory bills this bill is very likely to cost more to administer and regulate than the funds it will generate. It also will create ill will on the behalf of the public perception towards enforcement personnel.

I view Oregon's waterways as I view Oregon's beaches. They are a public domain that should remain free to open access by non extractive users. If we pass this bill then we need to charge surfers to surf the waves and we need to charge beach walkers to walk the beaches. Oregon is not a state that will benefit from increased cost of admittance to its public resources, especially when this charge is levied on Oregonians themselves.

I feel disenfranchised that Tom Wolfe of Trout Unlimited has endorsed this legislation on behalf of his constituents. He does not represent my opinions or those of many of our group of Trout Unlimited members. I would urge you to disregard his endorsement as representative of Trout Unlimited members. I do hope you consider his endorsement as an individual Oregonian as you consider my letter from an opposing viewpoint.

Keep Oregon sane and accessible to the people who have grown up using its water trails. Keep the freedom of the river alive! If the OSMB needs more money to operate then charge powerboat users more money for boat registration. We own expensive boats, many of them at your local port cost well over \$100,000 for a modest Sportfishing model. We are the users that are already indentured under the current system and have the financial resources to contribute to a system of regulation that we use in a heavy impact way. Don't create hurdles for simple people to jump when they just want to get on the water for a few hours of R&R.

Please consider my enthusiastic opposition to this bill and keep The best parts of Oregon accessible for future generations.

Sincerely,  
Geoffrey Laird  
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Sent from my iPhone