

SENATE BUDGET NO LONGER TAKES CARE OF BOATERS!

We must ask you Boaters once more for grassroots support in this final week of the Legislative Session in Olympia. Can you please take the time to make another quick and easy call to the Legislative Hotline? Please help us, help you and SAVE state boating programs. Here are the ugly details.

During the past week, the State Senate has unveiled and adopted in committee a new state budget proposal that no longer does well for boaters, and strips boating programs.

The revised Senate budget no longer references or funds 2SSB 5691, the boating improvements act, and the Senate now joins the House in proposing to transfer all of the boaters' unrefunded gas tax funds to non boating programs. (Although the Senate does transfer these funds to State Parks, rather than the general fund, which includes marine parks).

Absent is any consideration for boaters and the future of recreational boating programs, these changes in the budget CANNOT be considered acceptable. Boaters can no longer simply support the Senate position on the budget.

IT IS TIME TO CALL THE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE WITH A SIMPLE MESSAGE TO URGE YOUR SENATOR, REPRESENTATIVES, AND GOVERNOR GREGOIRE TO:

"PLEASE DO NOT TRANSFER THE BOATERS' CAPITAL PROGRAM FUNDS TO THE OPERATING BUDGET."

THE LEGISLATIVE HOTLINE IS 1-800-562-6000. IT IS OPEN FROM 8 AM TO 8 PM, MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, AND FROM 9 AM TO 1 PM ON SATURDAYS.

IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT THE HOTLINE CALLS START FIRST THING MONDAY MORNING -April 20.

Thanks again for your continued support for Boating Programs in Washington. Once the session is over, well give you the final analysis for boating.

Jim King, RBAW Lobbyist
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RECREATIONAL BOATING ASSOCIATION OF WASHINGTON