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# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**TED W. LIEU**

TWENTY-EIGHTH SENATE DISTRICT

CHAIR  
LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL  
RELATIONS

MEMBER  
APPROPRIATIONS  
ELECTIONS AND  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS  
INSURANCE  
VETERANS AFFAIRS



April 16, 2012

Little Hoover Commission  
925 L Street, Suite 805  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioners:

As the Little Hoover Commission prepares to hold hearings on the Governor's 2012 reorganization plan, I am writing regarding the proposed elimination of the California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW). As a Senator representing a coastal district with waterways, I am keenly aware of the important work of the DBW and am concerned that its elimination will have negative consequences that are far outweighed by any de minimis non-general fund cost benefits.

This proposal has been reviewed and rejected several times in the past and I believe it should be rejected again. *Since DBW is self-funded by boaters' taxes and fees, eliminating it would not reduce general fund expenditures.* Furthermore, recreational boating contributes \$16.5 billion to the gross state product and generates \$1.6 billion in state and local taxes. With over 8,500 recreational boating-related businesses supporting over 284,000 direct and indirect jobs in the state, having a department dedicated to supporting boating is important to our economic recovery.

Boating accidents are the second most prevalent type of transportation accident in the nation and California ranks second in terms of the number of boating accidents and fatalities. The DBW administers a proactive safety outreach program, including direct financial support for law enforcement in high boating counties, which is critical to saving lives on the water. Moving this and other DBW programs to the Department of Parks and Recreation will diminish their effectiveness.

I encourage you to consider the concerns I have raised as the Commission reviews the proposal to eliminate the California Department of Boating of Waterways. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (916) 651-4028.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ted W. Lieu".

**TED W. LIEU**  
Senator, 28<sup>th</sup> District

