

2023 Policy Priorities



STATE POLICY PRIORITIES

Who is the MRAA?

The Marine Retailers Association of the Americas (MRAA) is the leading trade association of North American small businesses that sell and service new and pre-owned recreational boats and operate marinas, boatyards, and accessory stores. Representing more than 1,100 marine retailers, MRAA is the trusted public policy and political voice of the marine retail industry, its management and shareholders, and growing membership base. Our members are the small businesses that make water-based outdoor recreation possible for everyday Americans. The MRAA also owns and operates the Dealer Week Conference and Expo, which occurs annually and is the single-largest trade show specifically for boat dealers in the United States.

What Does the MRAA Do?

The mission of the MRAA is to advocate on behalf marine retailers to ensure they have a strong selling environment, access, and abundant natural resources to facilitate continued enjoyment of water-based outdoor recreation. Through education, the MRAA also seeks to bolster our member businesses and provides opportunities for professional development, dealership certification, and more.

Boating United

Boating United is the advocacy platform of the recreational boating industry and is shared with the National Marine Manufacturer's Association. Through Boating United we generate Action Alerts and engage our members and their elected officials.

BoatPAC

BoatPAC (PAC) is the Political Action Committee of the recreational boating industry and is supported by members of the Marine Retailers Association of the Americas, National Marine Manufacturers Association, and the Association of Marina Industries. Each year MRAA member support the BoatPAC at an annual fundraising reception at our Dealer Week Conference and Expo.



Congressional Boating Caucus

The Congressional Boating Caucus is an informal, bipartisan group of U.S. Senators and Representatives formed in 1989 to advocate for the interests of the recreational boating industry. There are four Boating Caucus co-chairs: one Democrat and one Republican from both the Senate and the House; their staff manages the Caucus' activities.

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Marine Workforce Development

- Advocate for increased investment in programs that will bolster the Marine industry workforce and support apprenticeship programs, scholarships, and other investments to grow the Marine industry workforce.

Boating Access

- Preserve existing access for recreational boating while working with policymakers and local communities to ensure equitable access to the resource for all user groups.

Boater Safety & Education

- Support efforts to establish mandatory boating education requirements and facilitate on-the-water educational opportunities to share best practices for safe boating.

Facilitating and Maintaining a Strong Selling Environment

- Seek exemption from overburdensome regulatory or legislative efforts such as Right to Repair, Extended Producer Responsibility, PFAS Regulation, and more.

Offices of Outdoor Recreation

- Work in tandem with stakeholders across the outdoor recreation industry to establish and empower state offices of outdoor recreation (ORECS) throughout the U.S.

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