

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	8 - 0 - 0
Yeas:	Bailey, Bentz, Boone, Krieger, Thompson, Witt, Cannon, Gilliam
Nays:	0
Exc.:	0
Prepared By:	Liz Puskar, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	4/12, 4/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Allows DEQ to provide property owner with release from liability for existing spills or releases of oil and for prior entry of oil into state waters. Provides that release may be accomplished by administrative consent order or judicial consent judgment. Does not affect owner’s liability where spill or release of oil or hazardous substance, or release of oil into state waters, occurs after transfer of ownership or is exacerbated or contributed to by owner, or where owner is otherwise negligent or in violation of law. Provides liability release to purchaser of land or facility already subject to administrative agreement where purchaser adopts and agrees to be bound by agreement.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Lost economic opportunities represented by brownfields
- Threats to public health from prior contamination of land and water
- Number of brownfields sites in Oregon, particularly in Portland area

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND: A “brownfield” is a vacant or underused property where actual or perceived environmental contamination complicates expansion or redevelopment. Prospective purchasers of brownfields may decline to buy or develop the land out of fear of the potentially high costs of investigating and cleaning up the property. House Bill 3325 A would provide potential purchasers with a higher level of certainty regarding liability.