

mission: To enhance the region's economy and quality of life by providing efficient cargo and air passenger access to national and global markets.



January 26, 2012

Senator Jackie Dingfelder, Chair
Senator Alan Olsen, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
900 Court Street, NE Room 347
Salem, OR 97301

MEASURE: SB 1511
EXHIBIT: 51
2012 SESSION S ENV. & NAT. RESOURCES
DATE: 2-2-12 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: Tom Imeson

Subject: Senate Bill 1511/State Policy on Ecosystem Services

Dear Senators Dingfelder and Olsen:

The Port of Portland supports Senate Bill 1511, as it is a step in the right direction for expanding the policy on ecosystem services. The bill broadens the application of market-based approaches and provides a more beneficial and cost-effective means to approach restoration projects and protection of ecosystems.

Furthermore, we support a process to develop a uniform and consistent application of ecosystem values and categories. In addition, it should be noted that this legislation will reward Oregonians for being stewards of a broad range of natural resources within the state that are valuable to Oregon's citizens.

We appreciate the fact that this legislation does not mandate that any agency promote or engage in the ecosystem service markets, rather it simply allows these markets to be promoted as good state policy because of the many environmental and economic benefits. It opens up the possibilities available to the Port and others for generating mitigation credits and could enable a greater return on investments in mitigation that recognize the larger range of ecosystem services.

The Port of Portland believes this is a business-friendly solution to meeting environmental mitigation or regulatory requirements, is good for the environment, and has the potential to promote the development of good jobs in the ecosystem services markets.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Imeson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Tom Imeson
Public Affairs Director