



March 21, 2013

Senator Chip Shields
Chair, General Government, Consumer and Small Business Protection Committee
Oregon State Capitol Building
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for Passage of Senate Bill 814

Dear Sen. Shields, Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to submit comments in support of the passage of SB 814, legislation which will benefit economic recovery and growth, particularly in the Portland Harbor area.

As an economist and consultant in private practice, I work with many clients on issues of land use, environmental, and transportation policy. I also serve as a community representative on the Metro Regional Government's Transportation Policy Alternatives Committee (TPAC) and as an alternate on Metro's Technical Advisory Committee (MTAC) representing private economic development associations.

Regional economic prosperity is intrinsically linked to Portland Harbor. The area supports over 50,000 direct and induced jobs, many in traded sector industries: middle-skill, middle-income employment known for driving growth, prosperity, and economic equity. Portland Harbor is an international freight hub, an area that contributes well over \$1 billion to the annual economy.

The Superfund designation of Portland Harbor has cast a shadow over growth and economic development in Portland specifically, and reverberates throughout the State and region, imposing additional economic headwinds as the region struggles to recover from the severe recession. The Superfund designation has created an atmosphere of uncertainty with respect to private investment in the harbor area for over a decade, reducing potential output and causing the State and region to miss out on traded sector growth so critical to our prosperity.

Important to cleaning up the Harbor and easing the growth constraints related to the Superfund listing is the ability for companies with insurance to access coverage which



pays for investigation and cleanup. SB 814 would establish a timeline for handling of such claims, making the process more efficient and reducing lengthy and uncertain delays associated with insurance companies' accepting tender of environmental claims. SB 814 also promotes settlement by providing insurers who enter into good faith settlements protection against contribution claims by other insurers.

I strongly urge the Committee to vote yes on SB 814 as its passage will significantly contribute towards progress on the Portland Harbor Superfund cleanup.

Very truly yours,



Jeff Swanson

Managing Principal

