



## OREGON METALS INDUSTRY COUNCIL

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### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mark W. Nelson

**March 22, 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 Senate Bill 814

Dear Sen. Shields, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on this very important issue. The Oregon Metals Industry Council is in support of Senate Bill 814.

As industrial manufacturers, OMIC's members have experience with environmental cleanups in Oregon. SB 814 would bring clarity to this area of the statute and alleviate some of the challenges businesses face when navigating environmental insurance claims. The majority of our members are facing Portland Harbor Superfund liability and with the passage of SB 814, this Legislature would contribute significantly to aiding a quick and effective harbor cleanup, which is good for the business and the environment.

SB 814 will make a difference by:

- Establishing a reasonable timeline for handling of claims, adding certainty to what now can be a long, drawn out process.
- Promoting settlements by barring contribution claims by other insurers against the settling insurer, when settlement is entered into in good faith.
- Establishing guidelines requiring insurers provide competent counsel with expertise in handling the type of environmental claim at issue.

We urge you to pass SB 814 out of committee because it will have a positive effect on the environment and the economy.