



CITY OF
PORTLAND, OREGON

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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May 9, 2013

Rep. Paul Holvey, Chair
House Consumer Protection and Government Efficiency Committee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for SB 814

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee,

The City of Portland supports SB 814 and the effort to ensure that general liability insurance companies are responding to environmental claims in an appropriate and timely manner. The bill is carefully drafted and draws upon current Washington and California State law relating to the process for settling environmental claims under general liability insurance policies.

The City specifically supports the efforts in SB 814 to establish a process for timely and appropriate handling of environmental claims. This will help keep cleanup efforts, which are funded through insurance claims, on track. With greater certainty about the timing of insurance settlements, policy holders may have some relief from bearing the entire burden of the costs of environmental investigation and cleanup activities. Timely processing of environmental claims will be of critical importance when Oregon businesses and governmental entities begin remedial activities associated with cleanup of the Portland Harbor Superfund site.

Timely cleanup of Portland Harbor is a key priority of the City of Portland. Cleanup of contaminated sediments in the Harbor will result in environmental and public health benefits and will allow Portland's waterfront businesses to continue to prosper. SB 814 will remove some of the impediments to the settlement of environmental claims under general liability insurance policies and make funds available for environmental remediation.

The City of Portland encourages your support for SB 814.

Sincerely,

Daniel Eisenbeis
State Government Relations Manager