



— CITY OF PORTLAND —
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Room 1000, Portland, Oregon 97204 ■ Nick Fish, Commissioner ■ Dean Marriott, Director

June 12, 2013

Senator Diane Rosenbaum, Chair
Senate Committee on Rules
900 Court Street NE, Room 354,
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 2233 - A

Dear Chair Rosenbaum and Members of the Committee:

The City of Portland supports HB 2233 - A and the proposed language authorizing federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to address public health, safety and environmental issues related to abandoned and derelict vessels.

Oregon state statutes do not currently provide guidance regarding how to address abandoned and derelict vessels. This is an issue of growing statewide concern. The proposed legislation outlines the types of issues related to these vessels and sets forth a fair and consistent process for owners while allowing enforcement agencies to be responsive to health, safety and environmental concerns and navigational hazards.

Responding to abandoned and derelict vessels has created workload issues and resource constraints for local river safety agencies. The proposed legislation recognizes the vital role of these agencies and increases the cost share that may be paid by the State Marine Board to cover the costs of salvage, towing, storage and cleanup of an abandoned or derelict vessel.

The City of Portland supports the efforts of the State Marine Board to ensure safe use of our waters and encourages the Committee's support for HB 2233-A.

Sincerely,

Ann Beier, Director
Office of Healthy Working Rivers
Bureau of Environmental Services