

PLEASE SUPPORT SENATE BILL 814

Cliff Beutz
FROM THE DESK
OF:
REP. CLIFF BEUTZ



Portland General Electric



THE ZIDELL COMPANIES



SCHNITZER STEEL
OREGON METALS INDUSTRY COUNCIL
PORTLAND GENERAL ELECTRIC
ASH GROVE CEMENT
COLUMBIA CORRIDOR ASSOCIATION
ZIDELL COMPANIES
PORT OF PORTLAND
THE GREENBRIER COMPANIES

As industrial landowners and manufacturers, the signatories to this letter have first-hand experience with environmental clean-ups in Oregon.

Our interactions with our insurance companies on environmental cleanup claims have been challenging, avoidance, and delay. The longer it takes to clean up these sites, the more it costs business, taxpayers, and the environment in the long run.

SB 814 will bring clarity to the statute by accomplishing the following:

- 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.

Business and local governments are facing Portland Harbor Superfund liability. Passage of SB 814 would contribute significantly by accelerating a quick and effective harbor cleanup, which is good for the business and the environment.

We urge you to vote "Yes" on SB 814 because it will have a positive effect on the environment and the economy.