



February 11, 2015

Senator Chris Edwards, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources
900 Court St. NE, Room 453
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: SB 261

Dear Chair Edwards:

The Port of Portland has been a member of the Shipping Transport of Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force and appreciates the opportunity to provide our support for Senate Bill 261. We recognize the value and importance of the work being done by DEQ's Ballast Water Management Program to protect Oregon waterways from the introduction of non-indigenous invasive aquatic species.

Port of Portland staff have been active participants in developing a task force recommendation to restructure DEQ's ballast program funding with an industry supported fee and cost-share arrangement. The Task Force considered fee increases that would sustain the program through the 2017-19 biennium (\$88/arrival) – assuming commensurate increases in general fund allocation. The new fee and funding proposal establishes a partnership between the regulated community and public interest to support the protection of our waterways from invasive species threats.

It is our belief that the ballast water management program provides benefits to both the state and maritime industry. We urge your support for SB 261 and would be happy to provide additional information upon request.

Sincerely,



Kristen Leonard
Public Affairs Director