

Port of Portland Comments  
Senate Bill 249  
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
March 4, 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of SB 249, allowing the Department of State Lands (DSL) to recoup its costs for wetland mitigation projects in areas where there previously was no wetland mitigation bank.

Having various options for mitigation of unavoidable impacts to wetlands or waterways associated with development projects is very important to industrial and commercial development.

When on-site mitigation, off-site mitigation or purchasing “credits” from a mitigation bank in the area of the project are unavailable options, having the option of making a payment to DSL’s Removal-Fill Mitigation Fund is very valuable.

Local governments, including port authorities, make significant use of the DSL’s Removal-Fill Mitigation option. It is an important service that facilitates economic and infrastructure development while enhancing the environment.

DSL provides mitigation credits in areas where the private sector does not. DSL should be allowed to recoup its investment in Mitigation Fund supported projects and should not be punished simply by virtue of the fortuity that a private mitigation bank later becomes established in the same watershed. Valuable funds become locked up and unavailable for other unserved areas of the state.

The Port of Portland supports SB 249 addition of language to allow DSL lands to sell mitigation credits until it recoups its investment costs.

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