



March 10, 2015

Rep. Brad Witt, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
900 Court St. NE, Room 453
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: HB 2207

Dear Chair Witt:

The Port of Portland (Port) has been an active member of the Shipping Transport of Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force and appreciates the opportunity to provide our support for House Bill 2207. The Port supports measures to protect Oregon waters from the introduction of non-indigenous aquatic species and we recognize the value and importance of the work being done by DEQ's Ballast Water Management Program.

Port staff have been active participants in developing a task force recommendation which would require salt water flushing for empty ballast tank vessels, referred to as "No Ballast On Board" vessels. The adoption of salt-water flushing requirements of 'empty' ballast tanks would provide consistency with existing federal regulations under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Vessel General Permit. This provision would enable our local state inspectors the ability to provide technical assistance and enforce these important prevention measures.

Oregon State ballast water regulations are currently consistent with Washington State. This is of critical importance given the shared resource of the Columbia River. The Port of Portland hopes that any changes to State ballast water regulations in the future remain consistent with State of Washington regulations.

It is our belief that the ballast water management program provides benefits to both the state and maritime industry. We urge your support for HB 2207 and would be happy to provide additional information upon request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle H. Hollis".

Michelle Hollis
Port of Portland