



March 19, 2015

Co-Chairs Johnson and Gomberg:  
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation Economic Development  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Johnson, Representative Gomberg, and Members of the Subcommittee:

The Oregon Public Ports Association (OPPA) represents all 23 public ports in the State of Oregon. Our membership is diverse both in size and in geography. Members stretch from the Southern Coast at the Port of Brookings Harbor, north to the Port of Astoria and then east approximately 190 river miles along the Columbia River to the Port of Umatilla. Together, Oregon's public ports employ directly, indirectly and induce over 101,300 jobs in our state generating nearly \$600 million annually in state and local taxes. The OPPA would like to express its support for Business Oregon's budget and would like to highlight a few things.

**Brownfields Redevelopment Fund:** The OPPA supports the funding identified in the Governor's recommended budget (Policy Option Package 107) for the Brownfields Redevelopment Fund. Several public ports have utilized this program with a great deal of success in the past. Those ports include Newport, Toledo, Bandon, Arlington, and Coos Bay. We very much appreciate the \$7 million request for the program but believe a greater amount is warranted. Several ports have expressed the opinion that this program has been helpful in addressing remedial investigations but greater funding for actual cleanup would be a tremendous benefit. As a result, we would ask that the committee consider providing additional investment in this program above the Governor's recommended amount.

**Funding for Industrial Site Readiness:** As you know, in 2013 the Legislative Assembly enacted SB 246 and 253. Both of these measures were intended to address the state's lack of developable industrial sites throughout the state. Furthermore we appreciate that the Governor's Recommended Budget requests funding for Patient Capital. Nevertheless, we believe that providing some funding to assist regions in conducting an inventory and readiness assessment of large industrial sites (SB 253) and more flexible funding for direct site preparation should receive an allocation of resources for the upcoming biennium.

**Dredging Funds:** We very much appreciate the efforts of the Coastal Caucus in addressing some of the dredging challenges several of our smaller ports face due to federal disinvestment in these critical programs. We would simply request that the committee ensure that those funds previously appropriated for the purposes of small port maintenance dredging remain in place and ensure that adequate funding remains in place to meet this critical need.

**Oregon Infrastructure Opportunity Program:** Oregon Ports are very supportive of Policy Option Package 118 that would dedicate \$10 million to invest in rural infrastructure that will create immediate job growth. For years our ports have advocated for additional infrastructure funding that will assist us in retaining existing family wage jobs and creating new jobs in our districts throughout the state. We enthusiastically support HB 2435 but the measure will not be helpful without an adequate amount of resources being dedicated to it.

We understand and appreciate the difficult job it is to allocate limited resources in a manner that will result in the greatest return for Oregon taxpayers. We believe that the programs listed above have a tremendous potential to assist our communities in reaching their potential in job creation and economic stability throughout Oregon.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Landauer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Landauer  
Executive Director  
Oregon Public Ports Association