



March 23, 2015

Co-Chairs Devlin and Rayfield,  
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE, Rm. H-178  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Devlin, Representative Rayfield, and Members of the Subcommittee:

The Port of Portland's mission is to enhance the region's economy and quality of life by providing efficient cargo and air passenger access to national and global markets. The Port has a large footprint and is focused on how to avoid and reduce environmental impacts from our operations. The Port is internationally recognized for its innovative environmental stewardship and has both adopted policies and implemented programs focused on the following five categories:

- Minimize Impacts to Air Quality
- Reduce Energy Consumption and Purchase Renewable Energy
- Reduce Waste Generation and Hazardous Materials Use
- Minimize Impacts to Water Resources
- Minimize Impacts and Seek Opportunities to Enhance Natural Resources

Within the context of our mission, the Port works closely with the Department of Environmental Quality and supports DEQ's recommended budget, with an emphasis on the following elements:

**Portland Harbor Coordinator:** The Port supports DEQ's request in Package #124 for an additional senior-level policy position for the Portland Harbor Superfund Site to represent the Governor's interests and help facilitate state and federal coordination on the Portland Harbor Cleanup. The Portland Harbor Superfund Site was listed on EPA's National Priority List in 2000. Over the last fifteen years, several thousand samples have been collected and the relevant technical analyses and studies have been conducted.

As the project moves from study to remedy selection and then remedy implementation, enhanced federal-state coordination will become even more important. As one of over 140 Potentially Responsible Parties in the harbor, the Port supports increased involvement by the State in helping



to shape a remedy that is both protective of human health and the environment and is affordable for our community.

**Wastewater Permits and Management:** The Port has been a participant in DEQ’s Blue Ribbon Committee (BRC) since 2002 and support DEQ’s mission to protect water quality. Packages #120 (Water Quality Permitting System) and #123 (Restoring wastewater permitting) were reviewed and discussed at past committee meetings. The Port supports the proposed fee increase and additional general fund for replacement of the water quality data management system. Although the fee increase will impact our own Port permit fees, the Port believes the increase is necessary to restore DEQ’s program. We appreciate DEQ’s commitment to maintain a 60/40 split between permit fees and public funds. Combined, the two packages will restore the split and revenue shortfall. In short, the Port’s supports DEQ’s efforts to restore and improve DEQ’s water quality permitting program.

**Ballast Water Inspection/Enforcement:** The Port is a member of the Shipping Transport of Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force and supports maintaining vessel inspection, compliance verification and enforcement activities at current service levels. The Port supports the 50/50 cost share of ballast management program activities between general fund and revenue generated from vessel arrival fees. 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathryn Williams', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Kathryn Williams  
State Affairs Manager  
Port of Portland