



May 5, 2015

Senator Chris Edwards, Chair
Senate Environment & Natural Resources Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Edwards and Members of the Committee:

The Port of Portland is a multi-modal port, overseeing both seaport and airport operations. The levee system operated by Multnomah County Drainage District (MCDD) protects over 40 percent of the port's facilities, including the Portland International Airport, Troutdale Airport, and Troutdale Reynolds Industrial Park. The Portland International Airport serves 14 million passengers annually, handles more than a quarter million tons of air cargo, and provides service from 30 carriers with more than 500 passenger flights daily. We support the passage of House Bill 2277-A.

For the last year, the Port of Portland has participated, alongside MCDD, the City of Portland, METRO and other stakeholders in a state sponsored "Oregon Solutions" project that brings together public agencies, business groups, neighborhood associations and non-profit organizations to address the risk of flooding for an area that is home to over \$5 billion in assessed value, thousands of residents, 10% of the jobs in Multnomah County, and 20% of region's available large lot developable industrial land.

To date, the Oregon Solutions Columbia Corridor Flood Control System Reaccreditation Project has focused on meeting the standards set by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the United States Army Corps of Engineers. It has become apparent that the organizations tasked with managing our levee system, our local drainage districts authorized under ORS 547, have not been given sufficient authority from the state to meet the increasing demands of our federal partners. In order to provide the level of flood safety that businesses, Ports, airports, neighborhoods and others in the community desire, the local drainage district would benefit from more explicit authority to manage development on, or near, levees.

HB 2277-A will provide the drainage district with the needed authorities required to fulfill federal obligations and will promote further communication and cooperation between the local governments. The Port supports passage of HB 2277-A to empower drainage districts to meet their growing obligations.

Sincerely,

Philip Ralston
General Manager, Environmental Operations
Port of Portland