



May 13, 2015

Senator Chris Edwards
Chair, Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee
900 State Street, NE
Salem OR, 97301

Chair Edwards and Members of the Committee:

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 strong support for HB 2463 which, among other things, would permit the removal of abandoned and derelict structures on, under or over state-owned submerged or submersible lands.

As you know, one of the primary functions of ports is to provide a way for waterborne commerce to load or unload products, materials, and seafood. Furthermore, many of our ports also provide the public an avenue to participate in water related recreational opportunities. Improving and maintaining our navigation system is oftentimes overlooked by most of the public but for those in the maritime industry some of these structures pose a real threat not only to the industry itself but to the public as well. Furthermore, many of these structures are simply eyesores that have outlived any useful purpose.

In 2013, the Legislature enacted legislation that allows for the seizure and removal of abandoned or derelict vessels. It was a measure that the OPPA supported and has assisted our membership in removing vessels that pose a safety or environmental hazard. HB 2463 is modeled similarly to that measure in that it establishes a fund in the Department of State Lands for the purpose of paying for the removal of these abandoned and derelict structures that pose a threat to waterborne commerce and to the public.

Many of our ports have abandoned pilings along navigation channels. Additionally, docks and floating homes and other structures that are in disrepair or abandoned can and do create hazards. The ports are anxious to work with the department to remove some of these structures and we look forward to partnering with them to make our waterways safer for everyone.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Landauer", written over a white background.

Mark Landauer
Executive Director
Oregon Public Ports Association