

Mickelson Anastasia

From: Mickelson Anastasia
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 11:22 AM
To: Mickelson Anastasia
Subject: FW: Letter opposing SB 412

From: Al Roxburgh [<mailto:flkiwis@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 11:06 AM
To: Mickelson Anastasia
Subject: Letter opposing SB 412

Dear Representative:

Letter opposing SB 412

Please vote against this Port of Portland sponsored bill which exempts a State Agency from State regulation of solid waste, namely the disposal of toxic dredge materials in Oregon!

If the Port of Portland is claiming that the existing laws are causing financial hardship to some part of their organization, I believe they need to look at more basic factors that are causing the hardship, and make any necessary organizational adjustments, rather than being given the keys to the vault.

The existing regulations were designed to ensure that everyone, including State Agencies, share and safeguard our precious natural resources on a level competitive playing field, and do so without endangering our communities.

It is critical that DEQ retain full oversight over solid waste disposal to protect our communities and our environment. Requiring DEQ to automatically certify Port dumping as “productive” renders the word “productive” meaningless and weakens DEQ oversight.

SB 412 would allow Ports to create permanent new solid waste dredge dumps outside of existing landfills that provide no beneficial value—exactly what the law was supposed to prevent. We expect public agencies like the Port of Portland to follow environmental laws, not seek exceptions from them. The Port's sponsorship of this faulty bill is completely unacceptable, as is the passing of it by the Oregon Senate.

Dredgings cannot be made beneficial by simply defining them to be so. Therefore, I repeat, please vote against bill SB 412.

Thank you

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