



# Columbia River Steamship Operators' Association, Inc.

---

June 8, 2015

Senator Devlin and Representative Rayfield  
Co-Chairs, Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 98301

Co-Chairs Devlin and Rayfield and Members of the Committee:

The Columbia River Steamship Operators' Association, Inc. (CRSOA) consists of members representing ship owners, operators, agents, towing, bunkering, and launch service along the Oregon Coast and Columbia/Willamette River Systems. The mission of the CRSOA is to facilitate trade, provide business leadership, exercise principles of environmental stewardship, serve as an industry focal point, and promote operating policies and practices that are safe, reliable, efficient, and cost effective. Our association is pleased to express its support for HB 2207.

The CRSOA was an active participant in the Shipping Transport of Aquatic Invasive Species (STAIS) Task Force because the threat of aquatic invasive species is real with serious economic and environmental consequences. We know that when vessels empty their ballast tank(s), residual water and sedimentation remains in the ballast. Without salt water flushing there is an increased chance of invasive species contamination. By requiring salt water flushing, particularly for vessels that originate from low salinity ports, that this procedure greatly reduces the chances of dispersal.

We are also pleased that HB 2207 will ensure that Oregon's ballast water management program will be consistent with the State of Washington's. Because the two states share the Columbia River, it is of critical importance to minimize confusion and keep standards between the two states the same. Furthermore, it will create consistency with federal regulatory guidelines.

Ensuring that Oregon's ballast water management program provides economic benefit and environmental protections to the state and maritime industry we urge your support for HB 2207.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kate Mickelson  
Executive Director  
Columbia River Steamship Operators' Association, Inc.