

Maria,

As we discussed yesterday on the phone, I have scheduling conflicts that preclude me from appearing before the Senate General Government and Accountability Committee next Monday, March 20, at 1:00pm. Therefore, I am providing the following written comments on behalf of the Governor's Natural Resources Office in relation to SB-1022:

For the following reasons we respectfully request the Legislative Assembly maintain the existing Willamette River Cleanup Authority, currently authorized under ORS 468.531-533:

- The Willamette River Cleanup Authority (Authority) was initially established at a time when EPA's record of decision (ROD) for the Portland Harbor Superfund Site was anticipated to be released before 2010. The remedial investigation and feasibility study, which are necessary to support the ROD, took longer than anticipated to complete, and hence EPA's ROD (i.e., selection of a final sediment cleanup remedy) did not get published until January 2017. Therefore, the Authority has been dormant for nearly 10 years.
- Now that EPA has issued its record of decision for the Portland Harbor Superfund cleanup, the state is looking at whether the Authority could play a role in some or all of the cleanup implementation. Repealing the Authority now eliminates this potential mechanism, and may require re-creation of another similar entity in the future. The project is now entering the pre-remedial design phase for the sediment remedy, which will likely take a few years to complete. Once that stage is completed the project will enter into the final design/remedy implementation phase, which is when the Authority may play a role.

Thank you for your consideration.

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