



March 23, 2017

Oregon Conservation Network Testimony on SB 5537 – Dept. of State Lands Budget

Senator Lew Frederick and Representative Brad Witt, Co-Chairs  
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources  
Oregon State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 5537, the budget bill for the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL).

The Oregon Conservation Network (OCN) is coordinated through the Oregon League of Conservation Voters. OCN is a coalition of nearly 40 not-for-profit organizations throughout the state, united to advocate for pro-conservation legislation and fighting policies that threaten our state's natural legacy.

OCN is powered by tens of thousands of Oregonians who belong to their membership organizations. We work to protect the funding for natural resource agencies and programs, as well as policy that will ensure a better Oregon for our children.

We strongly encourage your support and approval of SB 5537, the DSL's proposed 2017-2019 budget. Considering our Federal administration wants to remove the Waters of the United States rule, we must work harder than ever at the state level to protect our vulnerable waterways and drinking water for generations to come.

As the Legislature and Governor's Office considers DSL's budget, we encourage the consideration of DSL's immense value in clean water and conservation efforts. It's crucial that Oregon leads the way to protecting rivers, streams, lakes and marshes. Specifically, OCN supports POPs 101 and 104.

**POP 101: Portland Harbor Cleanup**

It's critical the Portland Harbor Cleanup continues their efforts so this land will be a viable waterfront for recreational and economic use in the near future.

**POP 104: Submerged Lands Enhancement Fund**

OCN supports the continuation of funding for removing derelict vessels and structures on state-owned waterways.



In conclusion, we ask that the Subcommittee support SB 5537 and approve DSL's proposed 2017-2019 budget.

Sincerely,

Paige Spence  
Director, Oregon Conservation Network  
Oregon League of Conservation Voters