



May 19, 2017

Senator Fred Girod
Representative Paul Holvey
Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Salem, OR 93701

RE: SB 5530

Dear Co-Chairs Girod and Holvey and Members of the Committee:

We write in support of the \$10 million in lottery bond proceeds dedicated to the Portland Harbor Cleanup Fund.

The City of Portland, the Port of Portland and NW Natural are committed to a cleanup of the Lower Willamette River that protects the health of Portlanders and the environment. We have together been active in supporting the 17 year process of studying the river and doing early cleanups. Along with the State of Oregon we represent the public entities and a local public utility engaged in the Portland Harbor Superfund Site.

Portland Harbor is Oregon's largest seaport, where 30,000 people are directly employed. \$413 million of state and local tax revenue was generated by activity within Portland's [Working Harbor](#) in FY 2015. The Lower Willamette is home to a wide variety of wildlife and recreation opportunities and has significant cultural significance to Native American tribes. Portland Harbor also represents opportunity for new investment and future employment once the cloud of Superfund parts.

The US Environmental Protection Agency issued its final Record of Decision (ROD) on January 6, 2017, beginning a new phase of this admittedly amazingly long process. The ROD, however, is not a cleanup design that can be immediately constructed. Near-term sampling is necessary to establish the current conditions harbor-wide and more detailed sampling in specific work areas is necessary to move forward with actually cleaning up the harbor.

In order to maintain momentum, state leadership is needed, with new financial resources dedicated to the needed near-term work. It is our belief that these funds will help leverage funds from other parties as we move forward. The City, the Port and NW Natural urge your support in investing in the cleanup of this critical part of our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact Dan Eisenbeis, Kathryn Williams or Gary Bauer with questions or for more information.

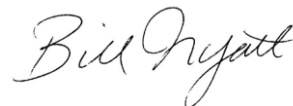
Sincerely,



David Anderson
President & CEO, NW Natural



Ted Wheeler
Mayor, City of Portland



Bill Wyatt
Executive Director, Port of Portland