

TO: Co-Chair Girod
Co-Chair Holvey
Members of the Sub-Committee on Capital Construction;
Joint Committee on Ways and Means

FR: Jim Robison

RE: Support for SB 5530- Section 12-14

May 18th, 2017

I have participated as a member of the Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group for 16 years, including several years as Chair. We are community members who committed a considerable amount of our volunteer time to learning about the Portland Harbor, pollutants, and what is necessary to clean it up. We encouraged strong public participation in the process for EPA to develop the Record of Decision for cleanup, and look forward to the cleanup being implemented effectively.

I am writing in support of **SB 5530** (section 12-14), which would (1) Create a Portland Harbor Fund at the State Treasury separate from the general fund for the purpose of holding funds to be appropriated to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), (2) Issue \$10 million in state lottery bonds towards the Portland Harbor Fund to “provide financial assistance to conduct baseline sampling to determine levels of contamination and develop design specifications for the remediation of contamination in the Portland Harbor.”

This is a critical next step in completing an effective cleanup. Now that the plan for cleanup has been developed, and the order has been issued by EPA to conduct the cleanup, it is necessary to conduct a full round of sampling that will allow for a clear delineation of the contaminated areas so that cleanup is precise and effective. Oregon DEQ is best situated to complete this task, so that sampling methods are uniform, accurate and unbiased. It is best not to leave the sampling up to the parties responsible for the pollution since they may separately conduct sampling with differing methods, making comparisons difficult, or multiple parties conducting sampling could cause cross contamination or interference, and the results from sampling by responsible parties could be deemed unreliable. In addition the DEQ would be most capable of maintaining data and sampling methodology over the long term for on-going monitoring and review.

I also join with the Portland Harbor Community Coalition in encouraging members of the sub-committee to consider setting community involvement language and standards in requested funds to ensure early community participation and to set a precedent for community standards in future phases of the project.

Our state should set high standards for sampling by funding the full amount. This should include a commitment to train and educate impacted communities on sampling and monitoring. The sampling also needs to include an assessment of tissues from lamprey eel, salmon, bass, carp, catfish and clams. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Jim Robison, Vice-Chair, Past Chair
Portland Harbor Community Advisory Group