



Cassie Cohen, Portland Harbor Coordinator
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Portland Harbor Community Coalition

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

FR: Cassie Cohen

RE: Support for SB 5530- Section 12-14

May 18th, 2017

My name is Cassie Cohen and I am the lead coordinator for Portland Harbor Community Coalition (PHCC), which is an alliance of those most directly impacted by pollution in the Portland Harbor Superfund Site. Native Americans Communities of color, immigrant and refugee groups, the houseless and homeless, environmental justice groups, North Portlanders, and conservation partners have joined together to move social and environmental justice priorities forward. PHCC works to raise the voices of everyone, especially those most impacted by contamination in the Portland Harbor. PHCC's primary objective is to ensure that those who have suffered historically and currently will benefit from the cleanup and restoration process, rather than continue to be harmed.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify 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 funds to be appropriated to Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), (2) Issue \$10 million in state lottery bonds towards the Portland Harbor Fund for the purpose 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."

As part of a coalition of communities historically impacted by the pollution and toxins of contaminated river, we want to encourage any efforts by the state, a responsible party, and other responsible parties to begin conducting sampling of the river that we hope encourages the remedial design phase of the clean up, and ultimately begins the actual clean up of the river.

PHCC would like to encourage members of the sub-committee to consider setting community involvement language and standards in requested funds to ensure early community



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participation and set a precedent for community standards in future phases of the project.

We want our state to 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,

Cassie Cohen
Portland Harbor Community Coalition Founder and Coordinator
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