



May 19, 2017

Co-Chairs Holvey and Girod and
Members of the Sub-Committee on Capital Construction
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

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

The Oregon Public Ports Association (OPPA) represents all 23 public ports in the State of Oregon. Our membership is diverse both in size and in geography. Members stretch from the Southern Coast at the Port of Brookings Harbor, north to the Port of Astoria and then east approximately 190 river miles along the Columbia River to the Port of Umatilla. Together, Oregon's public ports employ directly, indirectly and induce over 101,300 jobs in our state generating nearly \$600 million annually in state and local taxes. The OPPA would like to express its support SB 5530 and the funding for the next iteration of the ConnectOregon Program.

ConnectOregon has become a national model for public-private partnerships, and has proven to be an innovative infrastructure investment program for the state. In the six ConnectOregon cycles since 2005, well over 200 projects have received over \$400 million in state funds, while leveraging far more in additional infrastructure investment. The program has increased the viability of Oregon's multimodal transportation system and encouraged increased domestic and international commerce that provides greater opportunities for Oregon businesses and Oregon's ports.


Historically, our members have competed very well in this program which has resulted in our members being able to better serve their tenants and customers to move freight and other commodities more rapidly at lower costs to their destinations.

As you know, ports have a diverse set of assets from marine, rail and aviation facilities. Investments made through this program have resulted in the ability of our members to not only retain existing jobs but also create short-term construction jobs and long-term family wage jobs. It also results in fewer road miles being driven by trucks.

Our state's regional, national and global competitiveness depends on our ability to move cargo and commodities quickly and efficiently. The OPPA asks that you provide the Governors requested amount of \$71 million for this program

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mark Landauer
Executive Director
Oregon Public Ports Association