



CITY OF PORTLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Room 1000, Portland, Oregon 97204 ■ Nick Fish, Commissioner ■ Michael Jordan, Director

February 19, 2019

Senator Dembrow, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE, HR C
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: SB 254 & SB 432

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee,

The City of Portland supports SB 254 and SB 432 which provide funding opportunities for levee projects, including the urban flood safety and water quality district proposed in SB 431. The Bureau of Environmental Services manages Portland's wastewater and stormwater infrastructure to protect public health and the environment. The levees along the Columbia River are important infrastructure that serve the entire region.

Our state continues to develop and thrive, but meanwhile, our infrastructure is aging. SB 432 will provide funding for planning and construction of levee improvement projects, which is an urgent need in the Portland Metropolitan Region and other leveed areas of the state. While the City is particularly interested in the levees along the Columbia River within our service area, SB 254 will allow the Infrastructure Finance Authority to administer more grants through the levee subaccount and expand the entities that are eligible to receive grant funding for levee projects. This will be especially important for smaller levee districts all over Oregon.

Investing in the safety of Oregonians is investing in our future. The City of Portland urges your support of SB 254 and SB 432. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Eric Noll at eric.noll@portlandoregon.gov or at 503-823-6726.

Sincerely,

Michael Jordan
Director, Bureau of Environmental Services
City of Portland