



April 25, 2019

Senate Committee on Finance & Revenue
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Senate Bill 431-A

Chair Hass and Members of the Committee,

The Port of Portland supports SB 431-A. Nearly 40% of the Port of Portland's property is situated behind a 27-mile levee system that runs along the Columbia River from North Portland out through Gresham, Fairview, and Troutdale. This area includes the Portland International Airport, the Troutdale Airport, the Troutdale Reynolds Industrial Park, and other Port-owned properties. The levee system also protects over 59,000 jobs, \$7.4 billion in property, and a significant amount of open space.

Although the four Columbia Corridor Drainage Districts responsible for operating and maintaining the levee system have done their best, their century old oversight and funding structures are not sufficiently equipped to manage risk and adapt to new federal standards. As a result, federal accreditation of the levee system is currently at risk and there are major deficiencies that must be addressed to ensure federal accreditation is not revoked.

The Port of Portland has taken an active role in the development of Senate Bill 431-A. Years of research and discussion have gone into the development of this new governance structure, which has been designed to meet long-term flood safety needs while allowing for a more equitable distribution of costs based on services and benefits received. It also allows for improved environmental stewardship along the levees and conveyances in the managed floodplain.

This is an issue of statewide concern, with economic implications that touch every corner of Oregon. We encourage you to support Senate Bill 431-A.

Sincerely,

Ivo Trummer
State Affairs Manager

Port of Portland contacts:

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