



CITY OF TROUTDALE

"Gateway to the Columbia River Gorge"

May 20, 2019

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

Re: Senate Bill 431

Chair Mark Hass and Members of the Committee,

I want to encourage you to join the City of Troutdale in supporting Senate Bill 431, which creates an urban flood safety and water quality district in a portion of Multnomah County. Improving the Columbia River levee system, including reforming its governance structure, is an issue of great importance to the City which is partially located in the historic floodplain along the river and to the state. The area that is protecting with the City of Troutdale contains thousands of jobs, and hundreds of millions of dollars in property value.

Although the Sandy Drainage Improvement Company, the entity that maintains the section of the levy within the City, have historically done a great job of maintaining the levees, the system needs future oversight and funding structures that are sufficiently equipped to manage risk and adapt to shifting federal standards and changing river conditions. The people who live, work, recreate, and do business along the Columbia Corridor, need the assurance that the levees are safe, that they can be maintained to federal standards, and that accreditation and access to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) won't be on the line when standards are changed. The Levee Ready Columbia partnership has worked hard to develop Senate Bill 431, and its subsequent amendments, to accomplish this objective.

The ongoing success of over 2,500 businesses, the livelihood of approximately 59,000 employees, as well as the day-to-day operations of the Port of Portland, the Portland International and Troutdale Airports, and the Oregon Air National Guard, all rely on the structural stability and responsible oversight of the levees. This is an issue of statewide concern, with economic implications that touch every corner of Oregon. Please pass the legislation out of Committee.

Sincerely,


Ray Young
City Manager
City of Troutdale

Cc Hon. Casey Ryan

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