



March 28th, 2023

RE: House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government and Veterans - HB 2914

Dear Chair Grayber, Vice-Chairs Lewis and Tran, and Members of the Committee,

In the past five years, the Port of Coos Bay has spent in excess of \$260,000.00 on the removal and destruction of derelict vessels in Charleston, Oregon. Ports throughout Oregon are faced with the challenge of dealing with abandoned and or derelict vessels, a costly and time-consuming endeavor. Although Port's do not own these vessels, as stewards of their harbors, they are often left as the parties that take ownership of vessels that have fallen into a state of significant disrepair and the vessel owner cannot afford to have them hauled out, or when they are abandoned by their owners, or when vessel owners fall into significant default to where they lose ownership.

A prime example of the plight of ports dealing with derelict vessels took place in Charleston in the winter of 2020. A vessel had fallen into a significant state of disrepair and its owner had become significantly delinquent in moorage payments. As such, the vessel and its owner were evicted from the Marina premises. The vessel owner anchored in the South Slough, a nationally recognized estuarine research reserve. During a winter weather event, the vessel began taking on water and later sunk. Thankfully the owner survived the vessel capsizing, however, because he did not have funds or insurance to remove the sunken vessel. The State recently removed the vessel from the water and it is being prepared for destruction. Port funds used to destroy these vessels would be far better spent in maintenance and repair of aging infrastructure necessary to support both the commercial and recreational fishing industries.

The costs of derelict vessels is not just limited to the expense of hauling them out of the water and destroying them. These vessels pose significant risk to public safety in the event of capsizing, as well as environmental risks with the potential of expelling hazardous substances in to the waterway.

On behalf of the Oregon International Port of Coos Bay, I urge you to move HB 2914 forward with a recommendation to pass in order to aid our State's ports in addressing the ever increasing issues surrounding abandoned and derelict vessels.

Sincerely,

Mike Dunning, Chief Operations Officer
Oregon International Port of Coos Bay

125 West Central Avenue, Suite 300 | P.O. Box 1215 | Coos Bay, Oregon 97420-0311
Phone: 541-267-7678 | Fax: 541-269-1475 | Email: portcoos@portofcoosbay.com | Web: www.portofcoosbay.com

State of Oregon: Tokyo, Japan – Oregon Japan Representative | Phone: 81-3-5430-0771 | Fax: 81-3-5430-0775 Representatives
Offices: Seoul, Korea – Korea Representative Office | Phone: 82-2-753-1349 | Fax: 82-2-753-5154

125 West Central Avenue, Suite 300 | P.O. Box 1215 | Coos Bay, Oregon 97420-0311
Phone: 541-267-7678 | Fax: 541-269-1475 | Email: portcoos@portofcoosbay.com | Web: www.portofcoosbay.com

State of Oregon: Tokyo, Japan – Oregon Japan Representative | Phone: 81-3-5430-0771 | Fax: 81-3-5430-0775
Representatives Offices: Seoul, Korea – Korea Representative Office | Phone: 82-2-753-1349 | Fax: 82-2-753-5154