

I am NEUTRAL on [SB 949]...Are failed Non-point Source programs the culprits of Ports sediments, trash and debris?

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB949/Introduced>

Check out the Supporters below:

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/267486>

Staff Analysis is below:

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/267223>

Testimonies are below:

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Measures/Testimony/SB949>

[SB 949] raises a unique issue.

Are jurisdictions that discharge their storm sewers into "waterways" which empties into the ports' waters; carrying sediments, trash and assorted debris; libel for the dredging costs and other related damages?

One salient question turns on how the sediment and assorted debris ending up in the ports' waters is to be quantified for the express purposes of calculating the "Fees to be assessed" and or additional damages served upon the offending jurisdictions.

What is "Mother Nature's" contribution to the sediments, trash and debris entering the ports' waters? The math equation in the "Text of [SB 949]" does not take into account this unknown but significant contribution(s).

It is very unlikely quantification methodologies assessing Fees and or charges will bear any fruit as a viable source of revenue for the Ports Dredging Operations. Competent Attorneys should get a good belly laugh from [SB 949]'s attempt at mastering higher mathematics.

Oregon cities have their own respective Federal mandates to enact and maintain competent Non-point Source control programs to achieve clean water goals such as removing sediments, trash and debris. [There are other pollutants listed.]

Below is information concerning Non-point Source Pollution:

<https://www.epa.gov/nps/basic-information-about-nonpoint-source-nps-pollution>

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/programs/Pages/Nonpoint.aspx>

The important issue is the need to create a "PORTS DREDGING FUND" separate and distinct from the "GENERAL FUND" to provide the necessary revenues to support Ports Dredging operations in perpetuity.

It is past time, the Ports Authorities enter into serious discussions with the Legislature to set up the aforementioned "Restricted Use Fund" to support Ports Dredging operations.

I am Neutral on [SB 949] because it is a clever idea. It doesn't stand a prayer's chance in Hell of working as written but, discussions will take place and some form of funding will be set in stone to aid our ports. In addition, Oregon cities, towns and rural areas better start getting their Non-point Source programs functioning a little better than they are right now.

David S. Wall

Mr. Oregon Concur and says, "D.B. Smith-The King of Port Orford strikes again."

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