

Submitter: D Torres

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB165

Chair & Committee Members,

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB 165.

This bill undermines the principle of fair and equitable treatment of property owners. By explicitly stating that DSL need not seek fair market value in these negotiations, the bill introduces a dangerous precedent in which the state can devalue land based on policy preferences. Property owners affected by these declarations—many of whom may have held, maintained, or developed this land in good faith for generations—deserve to be treated with transparency and compensated fairly, especially when the state's interests shift over time.

Second, SB 165 A encourages the state to prioritize a subjective policy goal (public access) over objective, measurable standards (fair market value). This undermines public trust in how the state handles land management and resource negotiations. It opens the door to inconsistent, non-transparent decisions where some landowners may be pressured into accepting unfavorable terms under the guise of "public benefit."

Third, the bill could have unintended fiscal consequences. By authorizing DSL to forgo fair market value, the state may effectively give away valuable public assets without proper compensation. This is contrary to principles of responsible stewardship and undermines the financial accountability we expect of public agencies.

If the state wishes to expand public access to waterways, it should do so through transparent acquisition, public planning processes, and with full respect for private property rights. Short-cutting those processes and setting aside fair valuation does not serve the long-term interests of the public or the property owners who are impacted.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to vote NO on SB 165 A unless it is amended to restore the requirement that fair market value be a baseline in all negotiations involving state land. This bill along with all the others that create **EXTREME GOVERNMENT OVERREACH OF PROPERTY/LANDOWNERS NEEDS TO CEASE!**

Oregonians deserve better representation.