



May 19, 2015

Representative Jessica Vega Pederson
Chair, House Energy and Environment Committee
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

Chair Vega Pederson and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Public Ports Association (OPPA) represents all 23 public ports in the State of Oregon. Our membership is diverse both in size and in geography. Members stretch from the Southern Coast at the Port of Brookings Harbor, north to the Port of Astoria and then east approximately 190 river miles along the Columbia River to the Port of Umatilla. Together, Oregon's public ports employ directly, indirectly and induce over 101,300 jobs in our state generating nearly \$600 million annually in state and local taxes. The OPPA would like to express its support for SB 412-A.

Navigation dredging is an important aspect of marine commerce and a critical component for many port operations. Many ports around the state, including the Port of Portland, Port of Coos Bay, the Port of Newport and others act as the 'local sponsor' for the US Army Corps of Engineers who routinely dredge navigation channels and berths to facilitate the safe transit of ships, barges and other vessels to and from their facilities.

Dredging is a heavily regulated practice requiring permits and approvals from both federal and state authorities including DEQ, and this legislation does not remove their regulatory oversight. Rather, SB 412-A will provide important clarifications around DEQs beneficial use rules and how they have been applied to Oregon Ports.

SB 412 would not allow the unregulated upland placement of hazardous or otherwise inappropriate material at upland dredge management sites. Regulation of this material falls under other regulatory structures. This legislation is intended to address only those materials deemed appropriate (clean enough) for upland placement.

The Oregon Ports Association urges your support SB 412-A as it will remedy a problem that hinders critical dredging operations by ports around our state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Landauer", is written over a horizontal line.

Mark Landauer
Executive Director
Oregon Public Ports Association