



Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
RE: Department of State Lands Budget

Dear Co-Chairs Senator Frederick and Representative Witt,

On behalf of Surfrider Foundation chapters throughout Oregon, we thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Department of State Lands budget and policy option packages. The Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit, grassroots environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our oceans, waves and beaches. Our Oregon network consists of 4 official Chapters in Portland, Newport, Florence and Coos Bay, with additional organizing committees in Curry and Clatsop County. Surfrider's thousands of supporters and members in Oregon include surfers, divers, fishermen, swimmers, paddlers, beachgoers and other user groups who spend significant time on the coast, in our waterways and in the ocean. We serve on the Ocean Policy Advisory Council representing ocean recreational users throughout the state of Oregon on important policy issues and we have deep partnerships with many of our natural resource agencies responsible for protecting our coastal resources, critical to Oregon's economy.

The Department of State Lands performs an immense amount of work extremely important to Surfrider Foundation's members and Oregonians. The waters of the state are an important public asset and management of activities in these waters must be done carefully and with full application of state regulations and in recognition of the myriad of federal regulations that also govern these waters. We are conscious of the careful balance of budgeting responsibility for the Common School Fund and as such support the Department's interest increasing fund capacity and resources. Surfrider Foundation supports the Department of State Lands budget and policy option packages as proposed by the agency and included within the Governor's recommended budget. In particular, Surfrider gives our strongest support for the following POPs under our interest as recreational users for state waters:

DSL Package 104: Submerged and Submersible Land Enhancement Fund

In 2015, the legislature created the Submerged and Submersible Enhancement Fund with the passage of HB 2463 which Surfrider was a key stakeholder advocate for during the 2015 session. This package requests limitation to allow payments to be made out of the fund. The implementation of this fund has been identified as a key strategy within NOAA's Oregon Marine Debris Action Planning process to help enhance submerged lands and remove derelict vessels, moorings and other major sources of marine debris from Oregon's inland submersible lands. Surfrider had the opportunity to present the importance of this fund and Oregon's Marine Debris Action Plan to support marine debris and derelict vessel removal to the Governor and the State Land Board in 2016 and was pleased by the Board's receptive interest in supporting the fund as a means for removal of hazardous debris. Surfrider strongly believes however this fund should not be utilized as a replacement for enforcement.

DSL Package 101: Portland Harbor Cleanup

A long and ongoing saga, it's of paramount importance to Surfrider Foundation that the Portland Harbor effort actually engages in cleanup and offers the opportunity for both recreational and economic uses of the harbor to occur in the near future. We support the state's diligence in protecting the state's liability, but we look forward to the day when the arguments over about who pays has been settled and, instead, cleanup is actually occurring. Similar to many of our state's waterway "landlord" issues, we find the state in a position of struggling with enforcement and liability. These issues are persistent in the Department's ability to keep our waters safe and clean for the many benefits they offer and efforts must continue to establish our state agency's ability to recoup (or hold accountable) costs for necessary clean up activities.

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