



May 20, 2019

Representative Caddy McKeown & Senator Lee Beyer  
Co-Chairs of the Joint Transportation Committee  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Dear Co-Chairs McKeown and Beyer:

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. Our membership stretches 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. We write to you urging you to approve a substantial investment in the OregonConnect program under SB 59.

In 2005 the Oregon Legislature created the Multimodal Transportation Fund, known as ConnectOregon, to invest in aviation, marine, rail and public transit infrastructure across Oregon and to promote economic development. Over the years the program has changed and as a result of the 2017 Transportation Funding Package the program has been made a permanent. It has also become a national model for public-private partnerships and has proven to be an innovative infrastructure investment program for the state. It has helped ensure that public investments leverage private-sector participation resulting in an overall benefit to Oregon's multimodal transportation system and the state's critical traded-sector economy.

Since 2005 and through Connect Oregon VI the state has committed \$487 million in the program resulting in some 286 projects being funded across the state. This program has become a major source of infrastructure investment for Oregon Ports. In fact, Oregon's ports have received 42 loans and grants from this program amounting to \$133,361,461 since 2005.

The program has increased the viability of Oregon's multimodal transportation system and encouraged increased domestic and international commerce that provides greater opportunities for Oregon communities, businesses and has enhanced our competitiveness. Most importantly, it continues the successful incentive-based public/private partnership grant program promoting a multi-modal approach to transportation challenges and benefits all regions of the state.

Transportation infrastructure is not cheap. The history of this program demonstrates that these funds leverage a great deal more capital, thereby making some of these projects possible. The program has increased the viability of Oregon's multimodal transportation system and encouraged increased domestic and international commerce that provides greater opportunities for Oregon's rural communities, businesses and Oregon's ports.

The Oregon Public Ports Association asks that you to make a substantial investment in the ConnectOregon program that will result in an open and competitive application process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Landauer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Landauer  
Executive Director,  
Oregon Public Ports Association