

TO: Joint Committee On Ways and Means April 18, 2021
900 State Street NE, Room H-178
Salem, OR 97301

REFERENCE: April 24, 2021, 1 PM, Public Hearing on SB 5555

SUBJECT: Support of City of Depoe Bay Request for Funds to Replace Pilings and Docks in its harbor

The docks and pilings in Depoe Bay's Harbor, installed in the mid 1950's, have lasted a surprisingly long time. The salt water environment and tidal surges have taken a disastrous toll on their condition. The safety and survival of the harbor is at stake.

Having no tax base, the City of Depoe Bay relies on Federal, State, and County funding for some big ticket items. With its limited funds, it has been able to do some maintenance and upkeep of the docks and pilings. However, it is not financially able to support a multi-million dollar undertaking of dock and piling replacement in the harbor. Temporary fixes only postpone the inevitable.

Depoe Bay's harbor is home to seventeen active Charter fishing boats, undoubtedly the largest Charter fishing fleet on the Oregon coast; a thriving Whale Watching fleet; and a number of recreational boaters who moor in the harbor.

The harbor at Depoe Bay is also a "Harbor of Refuge" (a place normally sheltered from heavy seas where a vessel can navigate and safely moor).

Tourism is a big business on which the residents of coastal cities rely for their livelihood. People from all over come to Depoe Bay to fish and whale watch from the "World's Smallest Harbor" while their families patronize the many shops and restaurants in the city. Depoe Bay needs this funding! Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

John N .O'Brien, Resident and Depoe Bay Harbor Commission Member