



February 1, 2022

To: Chair Grayber and Members of the House Committee on Veterans & Emergency Management

From: Ivo Trummer, State Affairs Manager, Port of Portland

Re: **Port of Portland Supports HB 4067**

Chair Grayber and Members of the Committee,

In 2019, the Oregon State Legislature passed Senate Bill 431, creating the Urban Flood Safety & Water Quality District (UFSWQD), a special district to manage the large network of levees, pump stations, and conveyances that reduce the risk of flooding along the Columbia River in Multnomah County. This legislation was introduced at the request of Levee Ready Columbia, a regional partnership of public, private, and nonprofit partners working collaboratively to modernize this flood safety infrastructure and the way it is managed.

SB 431 recognized the importance of the lands and assets protected by the levee system to the state's economy, including the Portland International Airport (PDX), three interstate highways, two intercontinental railways, as well as Oregon's second largest source of drinking water. This area is also home to nearly 8,000 residents and 2,500 businesses that generate about 59,000 jobs and \$16 billion in annual economic activity and associated revenue for the State.

The Port of Portland is the largest landowner in the levee system. The Port owns over 4,000 acres of land behind the levees, and 40% of the Port's facilities – including PDX and Troutdale Airport – are located behind the levees.

The passage of SB 431 was foundational to putting a safer, more modern, efficient, environmentally friendly, and financially sustainable governance structure in place to protect people and property along the river from flooding, prepare for climate change, and contribute to the health of the river and the watershed. However, creating a new special district from scratch can be complicated and as work has been done towards establishing the UFSWQD, some technical issues have been identified in the original statute.

HB 4067 will address these technical issues and will help accelerate the transition to this more modern and sustainable district that is better equipped to meet the region's flood safety and climate resilience needs. The faster timeline also helps position the region to compete for a significant federal investment in the levee system, which will dramatically reduce the funds that will need to be raised here in Oregon.

The Port of Portland hopes you will support HB 4067. Thank you for your consideration.