



January 30, 2025

Senate Committee Natural Resources and Wildfire
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97310

Chair Golden & 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 geography and stretches from the Southern Coast at the Port of Brookings Harbor, north to the Port of Astoria and then east approximately 290 river miles along the Columbia River to the Port of Umatilla.

The OPPA would like to express its enthusiastic support for SB 795. For several years, our member ports have struggled to deal with abandoned and derelict vessels (ADVs) in our marinas and waterways and we would like to thank the Legislative Assembly, Director Walker and Mr. Mulhollem at the Department of State Lands (DSL) for elevating this issue in recent years. In 2023 the Legislative Assembly made the first significant investment to address ADVs in Oregon's waterways and that investment has made a difference. The state now has a dedicated program to address this challenge, and they have worked with a wide array of stakeholders, including our organization and individual ports, to bring this bill forward for your consideration. That investment has also resulted in the removal of several problematic ADVs in Oregon's waterways. Nevertheless, there is much more that needs to be done.

ADVs pose environmental hazards and threats to navigation and are also just plain ugly along our coastline and rivers. Our members have consistently reported that the current system of notification, seizure, removal, storage, demolition and disposal of ADVs from their marinas or waterways is complex, slow, inefficient, and oftentimes comes at considerable expense to the individual ports and their taxpayers. And the problem will only get worse without needed changes and, importantly, holding those who cause these problems financially responsible.

SB 795 will provide DSL and other authorized agencies, like ports, updated tools to more efficiently address the challenges that ADVs pose by allowing agencies to remove them more quickly, holding those who cause ADVs more accountable, expanding enforcement options. The OPPA enthusiastically supports SB 795, and we look forward to our continued partnership with DSL on this important subject.

Thank you for your consideration of these remarks and we ask that you approve SB 795.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Landauer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mark Landauer
Executive Director
Oregon Public Ports Association