

February 17, 2025

Representative Thuy Tran, Chair
House Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Port of Portland Testimony in Support of HB 2726

Dear Chair Tran and Members of the Committee:

The Port of Portland (Port) supports passage of HB 2726, which would authorize lottery bonds in support of the Columbia corridor flood safety project conducted by the Urban Flood Safety & Water Quality District (UFSWQD).

The mission of the Port is to build shared prosperity for the region through travel, trade, and economic development. In establishing the UFSWQD, the Legislature declared the lands protected by the Columbia River levee system to be of statewide and regional significance, in part because they contain significant industrial and economic lands and the major transportation hub of Portland International Airport (PDX).

The levees, pumps, and conveyance keep approximately 60,000 jobs provided by nearly 2,500 businesses safe from flooding. The area protected by the levee system has access to rail connections, marine terminals, highways, and the airport – all particularly important because Oregon is one of the most trade-dependent states in the nation. In 2024, 17.5 million passengers from throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington and over 230,000 metric tons of freight moved through PDX.

The UFSWQD worked with state leadership, business interests, local and regional governments, and community and environmental stakeholders to scale and advance funding proposals to upgrade aging flood safety infrastructure in the Columbia corridor. The UFSWQD referred a \$150 million General Obligation bond package to the May 2024 ballot that was approved by voters in the district. HB 2726 would provide a necessary state contribution to the strategic investment by allocating \$20 million of lottery bond proceeds in the 2025-27 biennium and \$25 million of lottery bond proceeds in the 2027-29 biennium.

The Port respectfully urges passage of HB 2726. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Curtis Robinhold
Executive Director