

Thank you Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice Chair McDonald, and members of the Committee:

I am asking you to support House Bill 3314 with the “- 1” amendment, to fund design and permitting for a solution to mitigate the harmful cyanobacteria bloom in Ross Island Lagoon.

I live in a floating up just South of the Ross Island Lagoon. The blooms that happen are devastating for all of us that live, work, or recreate on the river. The lagoon is not far from Sellwood Park which is a very heavily used park for both dogs and people. In the summer many people hang out on the Sellwood beaches and swim in the river. All year long, dogs swim in the river. Dogs have been known to die from these harmful algae blooms and humans can get seriously ill from ingesting these toxic bacteria.

I urge you to support this bill and do everything you can to solve this horrible problem. The Willamette River is the gem of Portland and it is tragic that this problem is still an issue every summer.

Please help save our river, fish, wildlife, recreational opportunities, the health of all our swimmers – both human and animal by supporting HB 3314.

Thank you,
Lydia B. Smith