



**PORTLAND  
FIRE & RESCUE**



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Oregon State Legislature  
Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Support for Department of State Lands agency budget (SB 5539)**

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to express my full support for the Oregon Department of State Lands' budget proposal for the removal of abandoned and derelict vessels throughout the state. Portland Fire and Rescue is frequently called upon to respond to and mitigate the risks associated with allowing these vessels to remain in the water any longer than necessary. This includes navigation hazards, collisions and allisions (often of unmanned vessels), sinking hazards, fuel and other pollution spills, and of course fires. Portland Fire & Rescue has worked closely with Federal, State, County and other local agencies to minimize the risks associated with such a large number of ADV's in the local waterways and I have noticed a positive impact in the lower Willamette and Columbia rivers over the past couple of years.

Much of the credit for this improvement, I believe, is the amount of effort put forth by the Department of State Lands to address ADVs and certainly the amount of one-time funding given to address this pressing issue. I do not want to lose the momentum that has been gained by the one-time funding. I am writing to advocate for adequate, predictable, and stable funding that this bill will begin to provide. This bill will continue to ensure timely removal of ADVs and help to protect Oregon's waterways so they can continue to be enjoyed by all. It will also help ensure the safe and efficient use of Portland Fire's marine resources and keep them available to respond to other emergency situations both on water and on land.

It is imperative that the state continues to prioritize funding for the safe removal and disposal of abandoned and derelict vessels. I strongly support the proposed budget and urge lawmakers to approve the necessary funding in order to continue to address this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Sean Whalen  
Harbor Master / Portland Fire & Rescue