



PORT OF BANDON

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March 24, 2025

Oregon State Legislature
Joint Committee on Transportation
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Bill 361

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please consider this letter as full support for Senate Bill 361, relating to port dredging. These funds are critical to the Port of Bandon to carry out an important dredging project necessitated by sediment runoff from State Highway 101 and streets in the City of Bandon.

The Port's boating marina receives a large amount of stormwater and sediment gathered from local streets and Highway 101 which are deposited into a corner of the marina. The sediment from this builds up beneath docks and gangways, requiring expensive dredging with a long reach bucket excavator from the adjacent street. These particular sediments also contain a high risk of introducing toxic contamination into the marina basin, jeopardizing the Port's ability to cost effectively discharge the majority of dredged sediments by a pipe dredge into the flow lane, as flow lane discharge requires clean sediments. Although the Port has made repeated requests, we do not receive any financial support from the City or ODOT to manage the deposits. Funds from SB 361, if approved, would allow the Port to move forward with sediment removal from this area as the Port works towards a solution with responsible parties to create an upland sediment trap in the future.

The Port of Bandon provides critical services to Southern Oregon's boating community, a function that is heavily relied upon by the public along the coast as well as inland communities. These services result in not only recreational enjoyment of the waterways but also economic vitality for the tourism and travel sectors.

We urge you to approve and fund SB 361.

Sincerely,

Jeff Griffin

Jeff Griffin, Port Director