

# OREGON OCEAN POLICY ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Kate Brown, Governor

May 12, 2015

Gabriela Goldfarb, Policy Advisor  
Governor's Natural Resources Office  
255 Capitol Street NE, Suite 126  
Salem, OR 97310

Dear Gabriela:

On behalf of the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC), I am writing to express our support for the concept of HB 2463, the establishment of a Submerged Land Enhancement Fund.

Throughout Oregon, we see the negative impacts of abandoned structures and debris on our waterways and recognize that many of these impacts degrade our nearshore ocean environment, beaches, bays and estuaries. Considerable discussion occurred about those impacts during a meeting held by OPAC on May 8, 2015, in Bandon, and a motion was put forth and carried to provide our formal support for this legislative concept.

Land-based debris accounts for the overwhelming majority of debris in our oceans, and its environmental impacts to ocean habitats and wildlife are well documented. This debris along with derelict structures in our waterways require costly cleanups by various state and local agencies, local ports, private property and NGOs. A key factor in addressing land-based debris and derelict structures is removing these items at their source, before they become a bigger ecological and economic threat downstream.

One of the purposes of OPAC is to advise the Governor and state agencies on a broad range of ocean policy issues, as spelled out in ORS 196.443. Specifically, our interest in supporting this legislative concept relates to our policy direction under ORS 196.420(1), which is to "conserve the long-term values, benefits and natural resources of the ocean both within the state and beyond."

We appreciate the opportunity to provide you with comments in support of the creation of the Submerged Land Enhancement Fund under HB 2463.

Best regards,

Scott McMullen, OPAC Chair

Cc: Coastal Caucus