

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

October 16, 2017

The Honorable Scott Pruitt  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Pruitt:

We write to you regarding the Portland Harbor Superfund Site. Given the progress made to date, we urge your agency to support the transition of the Portland Harbor site from the prolonged study phase to active cleanup without further delay.

Located in Portland, Oregon, the Portland Harbor is a large industrial Superfund site that has been on EPA's National Priorities List since 2000. The result of decades of industrial use along the Willamette River, the approximately 11-mile site is contaminated with many hazardous substances, including polychlorinated biphenyls, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, dioxins/furans, pesticides, and heavy metals. There are over 140 potentially responsible parties (PRP) associated with this site. Many parties have been working on this issue now for over two decades.

The cleanup of Portland Harbor is a state and local priority, and major parties involved have made important commitments to remedial action. For example, facing a tough state budget, this year the Oregon Legislature and Governor dedicated \$8 million to help jump start cleanup. In addition, the City of Portland is working with a group of parties to get a priority site, River Mile 11 East, moving forward towards implementation. The Port of Portland undertook an early action cleanup at Marine Terminal 4 and is currently working with your agency to conclude those activities. Northwest Natural is actively performing Remedial Design work for EPA at its Gasco site. These actions demonstrate leadership and strong commitment from these public and private entities to actually move forward with cleanup, where possible, and to cooperatively revitalize sites in the Portland Harbor.

Every year the Portland Harbor goes without cleanup action, our region loses opportunities in the form of tax revenue, jobs, and property value, impeding economic opportunities for this important 11-mile stretch of industrial waterfront land within the City of Portland. In addition, the longer we delay cleanup, the longer the documented environmental and public health risks at this site go unaddressed. Collectively, public and private entities have already invested hundreds-of-millions of dollars on this site. We believe it is now time to move towards actual cleanup efforts that are efficient and cost-effective, and that reduce environmental and public health risks.

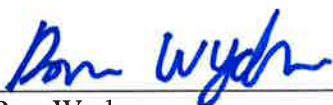
To ensure that this project moves forward as quickly as possible, we urge EPA to take the following actions:

- Dedicate adequate resources to the federal Superfund program, and specifically to the Portland Harbor Superfund Site, to ensure this project moves as quickly as possible with proper oversight and low transaction costs;
- Work with parties to accommodate site-specific flexibility, fostering innovative, cost-effective technologies and approaches to achieve cleanup goals;
- Accommodate multiple agreements for remedial action, allowing those who are willing to implement cleanup actions as quickly as possible to do so without being delayed by others. Allowing individual PRPs or small groups of PRPs to enter into agreements without having to wait for all parties to agree to one order for the entire site will help implement cleanup actions quickly and in a cost-effective manner.

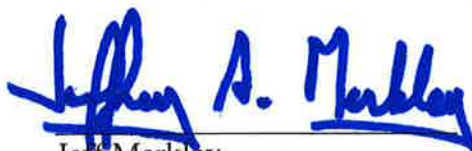
We encourage you to continue to work with the public and private entities that are committed to move the cleanup forward under this Record of Decision to ensure that the Portland Harbor Superfund moves forward toward a healthy, working river for Oregon and the region.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. If you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Malcolm McGeary in Senator Wyden's office at [Malcolm\\_McGeary@wyden.senate.gov](mailto:Malcolm_McGeary@wyden.senate.gov) or Kevin Stockert in Representative Blumenauer's office at [Kevin.Stockert@mail.house.gov](mailto:Kevin.Stockert@mail.house.gov).

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden  
United States Senator




Jeff Merkley  
United States Senator



Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Greg Walden  
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici  
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