

The following comments were received by McDermott and Bull during the online public comment period (April 10 – 24, 2017) for the finalists listed below.

Finalists:

- Jonathan Daniels, Executive Director and CEO, Mississippi State Port Authority
- Stephanie Dawson, Chief Operation Officer, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
- Curtis Robinhold, Deputy Executive Director, Port of Portland

From: Dena Turner <denaturn62@gmail.com>  
Subject: Executive Director Hire

Message Body:

The hiring of the Executive Director is a really important opportunity to get new leadership at the Port that is responsive to community values. The Port has consistently been on the wrong side of local conservation and environmental justice issues, including recent fights over Superfund, West Hayden Island, and the Portland fossil fuel infrastructure ban. Too often, it has led the fight on behalf of corporate interests and forgotten its role as a public agency.

This is an important opportunity to improve the agency which is critical in its leadership role to the health of our environment, our communities, and our economy.

From: Steven Nakana <steven.nakana@portofportland.com>  
Subject: Port of Portland Executive Director Position

Message Body:

I would like the Commission to explore how each candidate plans to integrate social equity at the Port and how they view equity fits into the Port's mission, as well as whether the mission should be changed by calling out equity as key part of the Port's future mission.

From: Susan M. Stocker <susan.stocker@portofportland.com>  
Subject: Executive Director Search

Message Body:

I'm sure each of these individuals have outstanding skills and will bring much to the Port of Portland. From a personal prospective and the experience of living in Oregon all of my life, also having the experience of working for a financial institution and business that brought in someone from the East, I would ask that the individuals be vetted well, especially when it comes to the Oregon culture. What happened with these two businesses was disastrous, one failed and was taken over by the Federal Government and the other lost significant ground in the industry.

Oregon is a great place and the Port of Portland Airport is known for it's outstanding services, so when it comes to maintaining this greatness, I would hate to see someone come in that doesn't have the same structure or understanding of this area, or personal goals that don't fit with the Port's, and to shake the work of past executive directors.

If I was on the panel with these individuals, I would ask one questions: What personal goals do you have or that you would implement at the Port of Portland Airport, and how do you see this aliening with the Port's goals.

Sometimes it's the personal goals that supersede the business goals that become the obstacles in greatness.

From: Randy Miller <Randy@ProduceRowLLC.com>  
Subject: new executive director

Message Body:

Respectfully understanding the search for the best candidate, I do not anticipate you could find any better qualified candidate than Curtis Robinhold. His vast experience within the state with public service, volunteerism, professional knowledge of port issues, integrity, and comprehension of the ethos of Portland cannot be overstated. Outside candidates would take years to understand the underlying culture here even before being effective with port issues. I certainly encourage the commission to chose Robinhold.

From: Anthony Stacy <stacyranch@gmail.com>  
Subject: POP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Message Body:

After studying all 3 candidates background, Mz. Dawson seems to be the perfect pick.

From: Lea Ann Easton <uncleannie3@comcast.net>  
Subject: Executive Director

Message Body:

I encourage the Port Commissioners to pick a new Director who can bring experience and vision to lead the Port for the next decade. With all due respect to Mr. Robinhold, I don't think he's the right person or has a vision to lead the Port during this time. I believe that either of the other two candidates present an opportunity to bring a new perspective on the opportunities that exist for the Port. It's time for a change from former Governor's network of political appointees and friends.

From: Beverlie Woodsong <Beverlie.Woodsong@portofportland.com>  
Subject: Public Comment Response

Message Body:

After assessing the qualifications that could be found online of all 3 candidates for the Port of Portland Commissioner position, I believe the best choice would be Stephanie Dawson. It would be a great honor for all of us here not only as employees but citizens of Portland, Oregon to have such an accomplished individual to represent and guide us.

From: Jim Kanoff <jim.kanoff@portofportland.com>  
Subject: Executive Director Search Feedback

Message Body:

I'm sure the committee has, or will look into this issue, but I thought I'd take a minute to submit this.

The Port's relationship with the City of Portland is important, and over recent years has seen some turbulent times. I wonder what the candidates might say are ideas they have for what they might do, to attempt to bring significant improvement in this important local partnership.

Thank you for asking for, and accepting my comments.

Sincerely,  
Jim Kanoff

From: Keith K. Lee - Chin's Import Export Co., Inc. <keith@chinsimport.com>  
Subject: Port of Portland - Executive Director

Message Body:

As a 3rd generation Portland based importer, I purchased property in the Port's Rivergate Industrial Park 8 years ago, for the purpose of being located in close proximity to the Port's Terminal 6 (T6). Now that T6 has been closed for over one year now, coupled with the fact that the Port has released ICTSI from its remaining lease obligations to operate T6, it is important that a capable new Port of Portland Executive Director is chosen.

After reviewing the resumes of the three final candidate selections, it's clear that Ms. Stephanie Dawson is the most qualified candidate. Having experience operating the Port Authorities of New York and New Jersey, it is important that we have a new director that is aware of the current challenges associated with Asia Pacific trade, which will ultimately lead to the transition of reopening T6.

As many are not aware, Mr. Curtis Robinhold was hand picked as Mr. Wyatt's successor, without Port Commission approval. Having both had ties with State government in the past, I am not confident that Mr. Robinhold will have a change of direction for our Port, especially considering his past involvement has not been productive.

Furthermore, the interests of "importers" continues to be neglected when addressing the concerns of our local international business community. Without importers to further support the economic infrastructure of T6, likewise local exporters stand to lose too.

It's important that the Port Commission looks beyond the current regime that's running the Port, and support Ms. Dawson as the most qualified candidate, moving forward.

Regards,  
Keith K. Lee  
President  
Chin's Import Export Co., Inc.  
503-224-4082

From: Tony Andersen <tonytonyandersen@gmail.com>  
Subject: Recommendation for Curtis Robinhold for Port Executive Director

Message Body:

I've known and worked with Curtis Robinhold since 2012 in a variety of roles, and knew him by reputation before that. I do not speak alone when I say that I look to Curtis as a mentor, natural leader and precisely what the Port needs as it writes its next chapter.

Curtis is one of those rare people who's leadership presence immediately improves the dynamic of a room, maneuvers tough situations, and also demands results from those around him. As the Port looks forward, complicated and progressive times call for a dynamic and savvy leader. Curtis is the definition.

He also possesses the institutional knowledge; state, national and international relationships; and business know-how to step in and immediately get things done. The Port unfortunately won't have the luxury of time to bring an outsider up-to-speed, and while the other candidates are certainly qualified, I cannot think of someone better suited for the Executive Director role.

I strongly recommend that the Port of Portland appoint Curtis Robinhold as Executive Director.

From: Chris Taylor <christophertaylor2@gmail.com>  
Subject: Executive Director search

Message Body:

I have known Curtis Robinhold for over 20 years and have interacted with him in a wide variety of professional settings during that time. I believe Curtis is uniquely well suited for the ED of Port of Portland role. Curtis' career has spanned the private and public sectors and has given him broad exposure to the full range of issues and challenges the Port faces.

I first got to know Curtis when he was a junior natural resource advisor to Gov. Kitzhaber in 1995 and I was a lobbyist for OSPIRG (an environmental NGO.) I have worked with him on a wide range of issues starting with recycling and energy deregulation in the 1990s and including renewable energy siting and infrastructure policy in Kitzhaber's 3rd term. Curtis has always impressed me with his command of the facts and a deep commitment to environmental stewardship. He is a creative and collaborative leader who can inspire a team while keeping them focused on the most important priorities.

He has a deep network of relationships in Oregon's statewide business, government and non-profit sectors and within the Port organization itself. Curtis is one of the most well respected people I know in Oregon - even those who have been on the other side from him on various issues respect Curtis' intelligence, integrity and commitment to public service.

Curtis is the type of leader who will listen to good ideas wherever they come from and who won't be swayed by emotional rhetoric alone. He is analytical and pragmatic and has the good humor and humility to navigate even the most challenging circumstances. I can think of no better candidate for this position.

From: Dr. Rebecca Boehne <beckyboehne@gmail.com>  
Subject: Port of Portland candidate feedback

Message Body:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the finalists. I have extensive experience in higher education and health care, including in administrative (executive) roles. I do not often make public comments but I saw this news release and because one of my most recent roles involved flying almost every week, I read further. The airport is only one part of the Port so someone with a wide range of skills is important to keep both the spirit and economic health of the entire Port operations robust.

I understand why Mr. Robinhold is a finalist; he is currently deputy director. From the three resumes, he appears to be the least qualified. His work is only in Oregon and with the one international firm. The work with BP gives him budgetary experience and understanding, but it does not appear to be rich or deep. While working for former Governor Kitzhaber gave Mr. Robinhold some experience, it is also a negative in terms of how the former governor ran his terms. I think this experience should not "subtract" points for Mr. Robinhold's candidacy, but it certainly should not add anything. "Knowing people" in different venues is helpful, but good administrators can quickly initiate and develop new relationships that will help the mission of the Port. Either of the other two candidates would be a better choice. Mr. Robinhold could continue in his current deputy role and learn much from them. His experience in breadth and depth is limited.

Mr. Daniels had good breadth of experience and a moderate depth. I believe there is a gap in his resume I'd want the committee to explore (1991-1993). It may be an oversight or something that may impact his ability (either positively or negatively) to be successful as Port director. He is a graduate of a military academy and I wonder if he was on active duty for those years? If so, why was it omitted from his resume? I believe after verifying the gap, if nothing negative is discovered, he could be successful as port director.

Based on her resume, Ms. Dawson is clearly the most qualified of the three candidates. Her port experience along with her military experiences give her the most depth of experience. The questions, I'd like the committee to explore with Ms. Dawson is related to her "style" of interacting with/managing employees. Is she able to create and maintain a warm, positive environment for employees? Or will her long military experience create an "I'm the boss...do as I say" environment? All in all, based on resumes, she is the clear leader and most qualified of the three.

Thanks for asking for public comment. This is my first foray into this type of comment process. I hope it is helpful. Best to the committee making a wise decision.

From: Vince Porter <vincetporter@gmail.com>  
Subject: Port of Portland Executive Director Search

Message Body:

I had the pleasure of serving as the Policy Advisor on Jobs and the Economy for Governor John Kitzhaber and Governor Kate Brown from April 2014 to December 2016. As a part of my responsibilities, I worked with the Port of Portland on issues such as international trade and economic development. With that experience in mind, I wanted to express my strong support for Curtis Robinhold to lead the Port of Portland. There could not be a more qualified and more talented candidate available.

Curtis has a unique ability to take on a multitude of complex issues and find solutions quickly and efficiently. His experience in the private sector has driven the Port towards a more stable financial model. The result is a stronger Port of Portland. The airport continues to be one of the best in the country. With expansion plans underway, and new international cargo and commercial direct flights set, the future for the airport is very bright. The industrial lands division continues to serve the community as Portland's economy continues to gain strength and I believe Curtis' leadership will make this division an even stronger asset for the Port. On the marine front, there is now new hope for a sustainable solution at Terminal 6.

Being a native Oregonian and an active member of the community, Curtis understands how the Port of Portland can best meet the needs of the state while embracing the values of all Oregonians. I applaud the commission for conducting a nationwide search for the Port's next executive director. It's important to know that the commission is picking the best candidate. During this process I hope the commission has realized what I know to be true - Curtis Robinhold is the best candidate for the job.

From: David Chown <dchown@chown.com>  
Subject: Executive Director

Message Body:

I urge the board to choose Curtis Robinhold as the next Executive Director of the Port. Curtis has a strong relationship with the Portland business community and understands the needs of our region. The Port and the business community need to always be partners, and Curtis has shown the leadership to make that happen. The other candidates may be excellent but Curtis has already demonstrated the ability to lead and develop the relationships needed for success in Portland.

Thank you,  
David Chown  
Chown Hardware

From: Sandra McDonough <[smcdonough@portlandalliance.com](mailto:smcdonough@portlandalliance.com)>  
Subject: Port of Portland Executive Director

Message Body:

As president of the Portland Business Alliance, I count the Port of Portland as a key partner in our efforts to build a strong regional economy. Bill Wyatt has been a tremendous leader and his shoes will be hard to fill. You have identified three candidates with phenomenal experience and one has the added important benefit of having solid experience in Oregon and at the Port of Portland. I support Curtis Robinhold for the role of executive director of the Port of Portland because of his solid track record as an Oregon leader and his experience as an executive at the Port. I hope you will select him.

Thank you.

Sandra McDonough  
President & CEO  
Portland Business Alliance

From: Daniel Nguyen <daniel@bambuza.com>  
Subject: International Experience of ED

Message Body:

Dear Port of Portland Commissioners & Executive Director Selection Committee,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the selection of the new ED. I recognize all the hard work and diligence that the commissioners, port staff and advisory group has committed to this process of selecting the next leader in this very important role.

Strong international experience is so crucial as the Executive Director will be arguably Oregon's most visible economic ambassador domestically and abroad. The ability to build both business and government relationships outside of the US are vital to the economic health of this region. Our foreign trade is directly tied to job creation and business opportunity here in Oregon. The Port's airport and marine operations are key to Oregon's long term economic future. Unlike other states in other parts of the country, Oregon simply cannot afford to neglect the importance of international relationships.

The Port of Portland and Oregon needs an Executive Director that recognizes this importance and has these international skills. In the next round of interviews, please develop more questions and opportunity for the candidates to demonstrate their confidence and ability to represent the economic interests of the state when dealing with foreign business and governments.

Thank you for considering these comments in the selection process.

Sincerely,

Daniel Nguyen

From: Michael Bednarek <mbednarek28@gmail.com>  
Subject: New Port Director

Message Body:

I vote for the Black Lady from New Jersey, the Port needs a real leader who knows how to kick ass and is not some Oregon Pussy who is part of the Oregon Democratic machine. Bill Wyatt was a piece of shit and a lousy leader who got his job through nepotism and who is directly responsible for the Port have no container business. And because he is a part of the Oregon Democratic political machine he was given a pass. No Oregon candidate has the balls or backbone to do business on the world stage they are more interested in sitting back and smoking dope and drinking their home brew and of course kissing Kate Browns ASS!

From: Dot Clingman <dot.clingman@portofportland.com>  
Subject: Executive Director Selection

Message Body:

After reading the bios of all the finalists, I am quite confident that any of them would likely be qualified leaders for the Port of Portland. In Curtis Robinhold, however, I am 100% confident. As an employee, and as the Port's Culture and Diversity program manager, I have experienced Curtis' absolute commitment to guiding the organization to reach our strategic objective to "Strengthen the Port's commitment to diversity & inclusion by increasing opportunities and removing barriers for current/future employees." He understands the complexity of the work, and he is both bold and thoughtful. Curtis is approachable, sets a positive tone, encourages original and even provocative thought and practices inclusivity. I hope he gets the job.

From: JOE WHITWORTH <joe@thefreshwatertrust.org>  
Subject: Exec. Dir. comments

Message Body:

Over the last decade, I have had opportunity to work with Curtis Robinhold in my capacity with The Freshwater Trust to identify options in solving the region's growth and environmental balance. He's consistently demonstrated an innovative, solution-first attitude in a sometime difficult operating environment. Because there are rarely easy answers to complex problems, the ability to pathfind and see a vision through to resolution is of significant and increasing value. Curtis would bring that to the work of the Port of Portland and the broader community; I stand in full support his candidacy.

Joe Whitworth  
President  
The Freshwater Trust

From: Neil Simon <neil@bighorncommunications.com>  
Subject: Endorsement of Curtis Robinhold for Executive Director

Message Body:

The Port of Portland is fortunate to have such a well-rounded candidate poised to rise from the deputy executive director role to take the helm of the port this year. Everywhere Curtis Robinhold has served he has been the model of accessibility, always taking the extra meeting, the extra time and the extra sincerity to listen to a new voice.

Curtis literally embodies the Oregon spirit, combining public demands and personal interests in protection wild lands with other interests to move the state's economy forward to benefit people in all corners of the state. The Port is not without its struggles, but I am certain that Curtis will lead it in the right direction, continuing to be true to his roots and ably merge Oregon environmental and economic values.

From: Derrick Olsen, President, World Affairs Council of Oregon <derrick@worldoregon.org>  
Subject: Recommendation for Curtis Robinhold, Chair of the Board of Trustees, World Affairs Council of Oregon

Message Body:  
Port of Portland Commission,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit a comment. As the Port Commissioners consider the finalists for the next Executive Director of the Port of Portland, I wanted to highlight that Curtis Robinhold has excelled as the Chair-Elect and Chair of the Board of Trustees of the World Affairs Council of Oregon.

The mission of the World Affairs Council of Oregon is to broaden public awareness and understanding of international affairs and to engage the people of Oregon and SW Washington with the world. Our staff and programs serve as a community resource through programs on world affairs, international visitors, and youth and education. As an educational nonpartisan nonprofit, our work is vital to individuals, families, and the larger community.

As Chair-Elect of the Board of Trustees, Curtis led our successful strategic planning process in spring 2016 that created a focused two-year workplan that we are in the middle of successfully implementing. Since becoming Chair in fall 2016, he has overseen one of our most successful fundraisers ever, an ongoing rebranding process, and a diverse International Speakers Series.

The volunteer leadership role that Curtis plays in guiding our Board of Trustees in strategic vision and oversight is critical to the important work our organization does to build global understanding and engagement essential to a more peaceful world. I cannot speak highly enough about his inclusive style of building consensus on the Board of Trustees, his clear and decisive direction when I request guidance on challenging issues, and his well-received appearances as an Ambassador for our organization. He is an outstanding individual and come with my highest recommendation.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for considering my input.

Sincerely,

Derrick Olsen  
President  
World Affairs Council of Oregon  
[1200 SW Park Avenue, Third Floor, Portland, OR 97205](http://www.worldoregon.org/)  
(503) 306-5243 direct  
derrick@worldoregon.org  
<http://worldoregon.org/>

From: Angus Duncan <aduncan@b-e-f.org>

Subject: Recommending Curtis Robinhold for appointment as Executive Director, Port of Portland

Message Body:

I have been professionally acquainted with Curtis Robinhold most closely from when he served as Governor Kitzhaber's Chief of Staff in 2011-2013. In my work – as President of the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, as a regional consultant to the Natural Resources Defense Council, and as Chair of the Oregon Global Warming Commission – I have engaged with Curtis both in the Governor's Office and at the Port of Portland. With respect to his environmental bona fides, I have found him both receptive to arguments for vigorous action on climate and energy issues, and able to intermediate effectively between my issues and business community expectations. To give one example, he was able, on behalf of the Port, to encourage our electric utilities to move prudently but decisively away from fossil fuels and toward renewable energy technologies, enabling the State – and the Port – to more rapidly pursue our greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals. At the same time, Curtis was participating on a Nature Conservancy-organized business task force identifying wider strategies for the State to achieve its overall GHG reduction goals, thus bringing business concerns and emissions reduction trajectories into alignment with each other. Of course the Port has led by example during Curtis' time there, from physical plant energy efficiency investments to shifting shuttle bus fueling from gasoline to lower-carbon natural gas. I have great confidence that the Port, under Curtis' leadership, will continue to be a force for environmental progress in the state of Oregon.

From: Duke Shepard <ds@dukeshepard.com>  
Subject: Executive Director Process - Robinhold

Message Body:

I have worked in capacities interacting with the Port of Portland on a variety of occasions, as an economic development professional, a senior level labor union representative, a community college board member, and advisor to a governor. The importance of the Port to our regional economy and livability cannot be overstated. Perhaps uniquely among Ports nationally, the Port of Portland is more than simply a shipping or transportation organization. It has a role in environmental stewardship across the region, in industrial land supply and policy, and as the central hub for trade economics and activity for this entire trade-dependent state.

I have also worked directly for Curtis Robinhold in the Kitzhaber administration. As a supervisor and executive, he is extremely gifted. He provides leadership and support for staff at all levels of the organization in a manner that brings out the best in people while holding everyone - including himself - to high levels of accountability. He brings a clear focus and direction to an organization. Anyone working for Curtis knows the outcomes expected as an employee and for the organization. His is honest, direct, fair, and empowering.

He knows Oregon's communities, economy and governments, and the importance of community collaboration and stakeholder involvement; this is not a top-down state. People expect to have a voice and to be heard. He believes in and practices inclusion, engagement, and listening. Moreover, his private sector experience is an enormous asset, both in terms of his ability to work with business and the actual subject matter of that experience - green energy. He can work with business, unions, neighborhoods, and conservation advocates to reach reasonable solutions to complex problems. He could have chosen to live anywhere in the world. He chose to come back to Oregon because he wants to serve. He is the best candidate for executive director of the Port of Portland.

From: Kyle Janus <kjanus1@gmail.com>  
Subject: Port Director Community Input

Message Body:

As a resident of St. Johns and neighbor to the Port, I am highly disappointed in how you are conducting this process. You are a public organization, and yet your efforts to engage with your public are dismal. Drain the swamp folks, and perhaps show some better integrity, engagement, and transparency with the people of this city whom you ultimately serve.

We want an opportunity to meet and engage with director candidates. We want to see a priority for community collaboration. We want a better Port.

From: Charles McGee <charles.mcgee@thebpi.org>  
Subject: Thoughtful, inclusive leadership

Message Body:

Search Firm,

I wanted to write you all and express my deep support and admiration for Curtis Robinhold. I have known Curtis since he worked for the state - in that time I become a major supporter and fan.

Without a doubt we are living during tough political and transformative years. The Port has played and must continue to play a critical role in charting our regions economic vitality. The leader of the Port must be connected to all communities. The leader of the Port must be thoughtful. The leader of the Port must be inclusive. The leader of the Port must be Curtis Robinhold.

From: Tony DeFalco <tonydefalco@verdenw.org>  
Subject: Port Director

Message Body:

The new Port of Portland Executive Director needs to have a strong, proven track record relative to Port functions delivering economic opportunities and social equity benefits for low-income communities and communities of color. Currently, the Port of Portland is doing a very poor job in this arena and can greatly contribute to our regional and statewide overall prosperity through increased attention to these communities through partnerships, workforce connections and hiring low-income people and people of color into leadership positions at the Port. It is time for an equity perspective to take hold at the port and prioritize the needs of low-income people and people of color who have been marginalized in the Port's activities for too long. There are many organizations who represent these communities, including mine, who stand ready to work constructively with the Port to generate win-wins in this arena. The current Port continues to preside over ongoing and deep disparities between whites and people of color in our region and this is simply un-acceptable for an agency that serves us all.

Thank you for considering my comments.

From: Kelly Tannock <kelly.tannock@portofportland.com>  
Subject: Port of Portland Executive Director

Message Body:

I believe the next Executive Director for the Port of Portland should be Curtis Robinhold:

1. He's ready to go on day one, there is no learning curve – he knows the Port business lines, the Portland community and Oregon.
2. Curtis is well liked and respected by Port staff and throughout the region and state.
3. He believes in and respects diversity.
4. We know Curtis – he has the energy, ethics, intelligence – he will do a stellar job as the Executive Director.

Thank you,

Kelly

From: Todd Foster <orrenfoster@comcast.net>

Subject: Curtis Robinhold Endorsement

Message Body:

I have known Curtis Robinhold professionally for over 20 years. I have had the opportunity to work in the same field with him for a great portion of that time. In all instances, Mr. Robinhold held a position of leadership and responsibility with his employer when I had the opportunity to interact with him. I can say with all certainty that he has the leadership and management skills necessary to lead the Port of Portland based on my observations of his work. More importantly, he has the values, political knowledge and familiarity with the stakeholders to ensure his successful tenure.

By way of illustration, I share an anecdote that sticks in my mind. Curtis was hired to replace a statewide political manager mid-campaign in the 1990's. Two of my very close friends were involved directly with the campaign as employees, and I was involved tangentially as a volunteer and interested observer. The regional campaign staff were not supported by the statewide campaign and the person responsible was subsequently released. Curtis filled their shoes. He identified the near term needs and met them promptly and completely. He went so far as to drive critical materials from Portland to Salem during the heat of the campaign to support the regional office. This was not an act that the prior manager, or any other statewide campaign official would have felt to be a good use of their time. But it was necessary and inspired everyone in the regional office. Not only did Curtis identify and fill a critical need, he inspired loyalty and hard work from his staff by pitching in with the ministerial tasks to get the job done.

I believe every organization who has the opportunity to have Mr. Robinhold as part of their team should feel fortunate. I trust that the stakeholders and decision makers who are considering Curtis for the position of Executive Director will see his worth and agree with my endorsement.

I recommend him most highly.

Todd Foster

From: Bill Furman <stephanie.sahagian@gbrx.com>  
Subject: Curtis Robinhold Support Letter

Message Body:

I am writing to express my support for the selection of Curtis Robinhold as the Port of Portland, Executive Director. It is clear that Curtis possesses the right background, relationships and regional perspective for the job.

All Port constituents are fortunate that a candidate with Curtis' public-sector and private-sector experience is available. I worked closely with him when he served as Chief of Staff for Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber. In this role, I observed Curtis develop a unique, statewide perspective that creates a fuller understanding the various economic, environmental and transportation needs of individual communities.

Curtis also possesses deep and beneficial knowledge about the Portland Harbor and Portland's working waterfront, where our Gunderson facility employs nearly 1000 workers building railcars and marine barges. He has repeatedly shown an understanding of the importance of the harbor, not only for the businesses that are located there, but also for those participants in Oregon's economy who directly and indirectly depend on this most vital waterway.

Curtis has a strong reputation as a pragmatic leader with a talent for providing practical solutions to challenging situations. During his time as Deputy Executive Director of the Port this has included managing complex issues related to transportation, economic planning, environmental protection and community involvement. He has consistently succeeded in leading diverse stakeholder groups to successful outcomes, largely based on his genial and collaborative approach paired with his vast knowledge of public policy and the needs of the community.

At a time when energy issues are becoming increasingly important at the statewide level, the region will be well-served by having a Port Director with an understanding of energy policy and markets. Curtis' earlier background in the energy sector equips him with a depth of knowledge about energy issues that is unrivaled by the other candidates for Executive Director.

Curtis' strong track record at the Port of Portland also includes shepherding the growth of business activity and air freight services at the Portland Airport. His experience through that process provides a strong advantage in understanding the needs of businesses and consumers, which is critical for a multimodal transportation agency like the Port.

You have conducted a successful search that narrowed to 3 talented finalists. I encourage the Port of Portland Commission to select Curtis Robinhold as the next Executive Director of the Port of Portland.

From: Phil Donovan <phil@nwpublicaffairs.com>  
Subject: Curtis Robinhold

Message Body:

I have known and worked with Curtis Robinhold since 1994. By now, you are well aware of his extensive management experience, tremendous political knowledge and relationships, and depth of public policy knowledge.

I want to emphasize a trait of his that can be often overlooked - common sense. There are times when difficult and complex situations arise and most people become overwhelmed or distracted by unimportant details. That does not happen with Curtis Robinhold. He has an uncanny ability to sift through the facts and drill down on what is important. As a result, he is a thought leader, not a follower.

I hope you will retain this unique home-grown Oregon talent. All of Oregon will be better for it.

Regards,

Phil Donovan, Principal  
NW Public Affairs, LLC

From: Promise King <promise7872@gmail.com>  
Subject: Support for Curtis Robinhold

Message Body:

My Name is Promise King, and I have worked for almost a decade as the president of the League of Minority Voters. Before then I worked as a Senior Policy Advisor to Representative Deborah Kafoury, State Treasurer Randall Edwards, and Portland City Commissioner Dan Saltzman.

Perhaps more relevant is that not only have I covered the Port Authority as a reporter for both the Portland Observer News, and the Skanner newspapers, I also had the privilege of serving on the City Noise Abatement Committee. All of these experience gave me a unique insight into who is most fit to preside over the Port leadership as Executive Director. I came to the conclusion that Curtis Robinhold, the current Deputy Executive Director, is the most qualified to lead the Port at these challenging times after a thorough vetting of the applicants' resumes.

The Port needs a leader who understands local authorities, the communities that live around the port, and an understanding of the engagement priorities needed to leverage both the economic and community development aspects of the port. A growing collection of issues have challenged the port recently, and these challenges need a steady and familiar hand to guide their impact on our regional economy.

A continued focus on solutions, with Mr. Robinhold as the Executive Director, will be needed to put the Port on a path to a more robust future.

Robinhold's community engagement as it relates to promoting equity and inclusion also sets him apart from other candidates. His ongoing work with the Oregon League of Minority Voters -- geared toward extending Speech and Debate leadership opportunities-- and working with other community leaders to improve the education prospects of minority students has been consistent and remarkable.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important position.

From: michelle <michelle.walker@portofportland.com>  
Subject: Exec Director

Message Body:

The candidates all are qualified yet Curtis Robinhold is a standout demonstrating that he can lead the Port into the future and retain a workplace to keep employees focused on the vision and our mission.

From: Nathan Phelan <nathantphelan@gmail.com>  
Subject: The Future is Bright for the Port of Portland

Message Body:

This comment is in response to Mr. Curtis Robinhold's candidacy for Executive Director over the Port of Portland. Recently our beloved region has flourished into one of the fastest growing in the country and by all leading indicators, this vibrant growth pattern is not poised to slow in the near future. At the forefront of paving the way towards a bright and sustainable economic future is the Port of Portland along with all the value that it offers stakeholders globally. As demonstrated via his collective body of work up to this point, Mr. Robinhold is supremely qualified to lead the Port of Portland. Mr. Robinhold is an earnest leader with a keen acumen for progressive thinking. Having the unique perspective of serving at high levels in both the private and public sector, Mr. Robinhold approaches issues head-on in a very deliberate manner. I have personally seen the results of his strategic planning in action through the collaborative investments the Port has executed in the greater Columbia Corridor area. I have the utmost confidence that by taking this next step into one of the most important roles in shaping the future of Oregon's economy, Mr. Robinhold will execute on a level that is unparalleled by others.

From: Sue Hildick <hildick@chalkboardproject.org>  
Subject: Curtis Robinhold

Message Body:

I'd like to add my voice in support of Curtis Robinhold for the Port leadership position. He is an intuitive listener with a track record of collaboration and partnership. His astute political instincts will serve Oregon well in this critical role. I believe he has both vision and implementation expertise that will continue to advance the excellent evolution already underway at the Port. Further, his commitment to equity is both necessary and welcome in this role which should lead the state in fostering inclusion and equitable outcomes. We have the pleasure of co-chairing the League of Minority Voters 10 year celebration dinner together this year and I can see his active leadership in service to equity.

From: Melanie Mesaros <melanie.mesaros@portofportland.com>  
Subject:

Message Body:

As a Port employee, I am interested in our new director's vision around industrial land. We seem to be quickly selling our property in Troutdale and Gresham so what's next? Inside the organization, I hear different views about our future focus in this area. Additionally, is there a way for our marine business to have more synergy with the industrial side in terms of helping customers and businesses grow?

I'm also interested in our new leader's perspective on our role in the community as a whole.

Thanks

From: R P Joe Smith <joe@smithcompound.com>  
Subject: Appointment of Executive Director

Message Body:

It's a mistake not to ask the finalists to participate in a public forum, because there's no better -- or other -- way to know how they'll perform when dealing with public forums! Strongly urge you do that.

Also, I hope there's recognition and application of the fact that there's no adequate substitute for direct, off-the-record and confidential interviews with applicants' co-workers, subordinates, and associates, who are NOT listed on their resumes, in making hiring decisions.

Joe

From: Phil Stenstrom <philip.stenstrom@portofportland.com>  
Subject: ED candidate question

Message Body:

Hello Search team -

The McDermott & Bull website contained a link to a Harvard Business Review article called "Making Business Personal" from April 2014 that got me thinking about what's important to me in the Port's next leader.

I'd like to ask the candidates their thoughts on the rightful place for personal vulnerability in the context of leading an organization like the Port of Portland. If candidates agree that there is a place for it, I wondered if they'd be willing to share some of their personal stories around vulnerable experiences, how they handled them, and what they learned about themselves as a result.

I'll understand if the candidates feel this question is too personal or not relevant to the process. Thanks for asking for our input and for considering my question.

Sincerely,  
Phil Stenstrom

From: James Carlson <jcarlson@ohca.com>  
Subject: Executive Director Search/Candidates

Message Body:

I would like to offer my support for the selection of Curtis Robinhold as the next Executive Director of the Port. As you are keenly aware, this position holds great importance for the economic vitality not only of the Port, but for the city, region and state.

Mr. Robinhold's personal qualities, leadership experience and management style are well suited for this position. He also possesses the necessary background, experience and depth of community and political relationships to effectively navigate public policy on key trade, environmental and transportation issues.

In my opinion, the Port would be hard pressed to find a candidate more prepared and qualified to serve as the next Executive Director than Mr. Robinhold.

From: Working Waterfront Coalition/Ellen Wax <ellen.wax@workingwaterfrontportland.org>  
Subject: Working Waterfront Coalition comment letter on Port Executive Director selection

Message Body:  
April 21, 2017

President Jim Carter and  
Port of Portland Commission  
Port of Portland  
[7200 NE Airport Way](#)  
[Portland, OR 97218](#)

Sent via Email: carter.jc@email.com

Dear Port of Portland President Jim Carter and Commissioners:

The Working Waterfront Coalition of Portland, Oregon highly recommends Mr. Curtis Robinhold as the Port of Portland Executive Director. The Working Waterfront Coalition (WWC) is a member based organization comprised of Portland Harbor businesses, primarily water dependent industries. Members include Vigor Industrial, The Greenbrier Companies/Gunderson LLC, Schnitzer Steel, Kinder Morgan, Advanced American Construction and Shaver Transportation among others. Portland Harbor businesses provide more than 30,000 middle-income jobs in the Portland region and significantly contribute to the local, regional and state economy. Harbor businesses exist and are able to thrive because of the availability of multimodal transportation options in the Portland region, which include a range of marine facilities on two rivers, two transcontinental rail lines, two interstate highways, and an international airport. All of these provide harbor business and industry access to state, national and international markets.

Curtis Robinhold's prior work with the Governor provides him with a perspective regarding the importance of the economic activity in the Portland region as a cornerstone to the statewide business and community need for international and domestic market access. More specifically, he recognizes the role of harbor businesses as an economic engine and a source of job growth, notably middle-income jobs, benefiting not only the Portland region but also communities throughout Oregon. His prior work in the energy field also gives him a broad understanding of the need to work with both community interests as well as business interests.

Mr. Robinhold's work at the Port includes multiple initiatives that benefit harbor business and industry and demonstrate his understanding of the economic demands and needs of businesses on the waterfront. An example is his early recognition of the potential impact of the Portland Comprehensive Plan Economic Opportunities Analysis (EOA) regarding setting a cargo growth forecast for harbor industrial lands. Through the Port's efforts, the City of Portland adopted a mid-range cargo forecast as part of a policy focused on future growth in the harbor. This was significant to protecting existing water-dependent industrial land adjacent to the Willamette River and providing opportunities for future harbor industrial land development.

His efforts in advancing initiatives on transportation infrastructure for all of Oregon further demonstrate his value as the future executive director for the Port of Portland. He managed Port departments during some of the most significant growth at Portland International Airport and demonstrated key leadership in overseeing the transition from the current Terminal 6 operation to future options that will benefit the entire state. He has also championed a statewide transportation plan that addresses roadway congestion as well as improvements to bridges, airport and marine infrastructure.

Under Mr. Robinhold's leadership, the Port worked closely with a variety of stakeholders and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to constructively engage in the Portland Harbor Superfund process. He consistently displays creativity in his approach to environmental remediation and mitigation. His career features a long history of involvement with environmental initiatives including his work with Willamette River Basin Water Quality task force, as the natural resources advisor with Governor Kitzhaber's first administration, as a member of the Nature Conservancy Oregon Chapter, Board of Trustees, and as a champion on local efforts to address climate change.

Curtis Robinhold provides continuity to the Port and the businesses and communities that work in partnership with it. Curtis Robinhold not only understands the value of the working harbor and its businesses, but takes actions that support growth in jobs and the economy to ensure a diversity of employment opportunities for Portland, the region and the state.

Sincerely,

Ellen Wax  
Executive Director, Working Waterfront Coalition

Established in 2005, the Working Waterfront Coalition, with its extensive knowledge of harbor industry needs and active industry participation, is dedicated to working with its partners to ensure an appropriate balance between environmental concerns and the needs of river-related, river-dependent employers. Portland's Harbor is a vital employment area: home to thousands of valuable high-wage, high-benefit jobs. In addition, WWC members are conscientious stewards of the environment, making significant investments in the harbor consistent with state and federal laws.

From: Amina Foster <amina.foster@portofportland.com>  
Subject: Executive Director Search: Comment & Question

Message Body:

Question: Please state 1 or 2 things that you have done, or policies/programs that you have implemented, since you began in your current position that you believe have benefited the organization in which you serve in a meaningful way. Please give a little bit of background detail on each and state why and where you believe there was and is a significant benefit or benefits.

Comment: Since I can only give comment to this organization, I will state that I greatly appreciate the creation of the PoP Culture team and the work that is being done with the Social Equity & Culture programs at the Port of Portland. I look forward to hearing about some of the positive changes made in Mississippi and New York/New Jersey as well.

From: Michael Kaplan <[michaeljkaplan@icloud.com](mailto:michaeljkaplan@icloud.com)>  
Subject: Curtis Robinhold

Message Body:

It is without reservation that I offer my full endorsement of Curtis Robinhold to be the Port of Portland's next executive director. Mr. Robinhold's political experience and acumen speak for themselves. He has routinely and deftly handled the intersection of difficult public policy and politics. In doing so, Curtis has continued to earn the respect and admiration of those who work with and around him. Additionally, Curtis has an uncommon depth of management experience, operating successfully in a variety of management structures. In no small measure, that can be attributed to Curtis's high expectations, direct communication style, and ability to see the root of problems facing his teams. He has spent years learning the Port, leading its operations, and preparing carefully for this responsibility. The Port faces many tough decisions in the future, choosing Curtis Robinhold as its next director is not one of them.

From: Bill Schmidt <[bill.schmidt@portofportland.com](mailto:bill.schmidt@portofportland.com)>  
Subject: Port of Portland Executive Director Recruitment

Message Body:

I am a 17 year employee of the Port of Portland. I have worked under multiple Executive Directors at the Port. Curtis Robinhold is my choice to be the next Executive Director. While all three candidates would do very well in leading the Port of Portland in the future, Curtis already has the knowledge and experience of running the Port's day-to-day operations. He has already gone through the learning curve that the other two candidates would have to go through before they could run the Port. In addition, Curtis has a way to make people feel very relaxed when talking to him. He is very personable and seeks to learn about Port employees' personal life. It is very important to many employees that the Executive Team walk through the facilities and make themselves available for questions. Curtis and our current Exec Team do just that. It is nice to see Curtis and the other execs walking through the headquarters building talking to staff, and holding regular employee meetings to give employees a chance to ask questions or air concerns. As there are no negative aspects to Curtis's running of the Port operations, in my opinion there is no reason to upset the current leadership by bringing in one of the other candidates as the new Executive Director. As I stated before, all three candidates appear to be fully qualified to run the Port of Portland and the Port would do well under all three candidates; but Curtis is already performing most of the Executive Director functions without giving you any reason to remove him from the position. Please hire Curtis Robinhold as the Port's next Executive Director.

From: Sean P Kolmer <[sean.kolmer@gmail.com](mailto:sean.kolmer@gmail.com)>  
Subject: Recommendation of Curtis Robinhold

Message Body:

I want to express my strong support for Curtis Robinhold for the position of Executive Director. I worked with Curtis when he was Chief of Staff to Governor Kitzhaber and I served in the Governor's Office as an advisor to the Governor. Curtis displayed a keen sense and skill to understand complex public policy challenges and provided unique leadership to guide his team and stakeholders to successful solutions. His experience as Chief of Staff provide him unique experiences for public private partnerships that should translate for his leadership at the Port. As an employee, he provided support and clear direction of expectations for my performance and when I needed, he always made time to ensure I had the resources and clarity as I would move forward on work.

Curtis is a established and experienced leader and the Port should strongly consider selecting him for its Executive Director. Thank you for the opportunity to provider some comments.

From: A. Davidson <[andyd8519@gmail.com](mailto:andyd8519@gmail.com)>  
Subject: Exec Dir. Search

Message Body:

Writing today to support candidacy of Curtis Robinhold.

In short, having gotten to know Curtis during his time in the Governors office I greatly admire his intellect and problem solving skills. Combined with his political prowess and knowledge of Oregon's unique political landscape, the Port will not miss a beat in this transition.

We have so many challenges in front of us that stand in the way of our continued growth and modernization "port wise". I am confident that Curtis can lead us through this gauntlet and into the future.

From: Philip Bentley <[pbentley4@gmail.com](mailto:pbentley4@gmail.com)>  
Subject: Curtis Robinhold - Director of Port of Portland

Message Body:

I worked closely with Curtis in his capacity as Chief of Staff to the Governor. I consider Curtis to be one of the most highly qualified individuals to have served in that capacity for an Oregon Governor in the past 20 years. Curtis has strong leadership skills and demonstrated his ability to manage large and complex organizations. He assembled a strong team of policy advisors and empowered them to be successful. He maintained good working relationships with a diversity of stakeholders representing competing political interests. He assisted the Governor in achieving several challenging policy initiatives in multiple areas including transportation, environmental stewardship, jobs and business, labor relations, and tax policy. I have not doubt that Curtis would be equally successful, if not more so, leading the Port of Portland.

From: Ted Gleichman <[tedgleichman@mac.com](mailto:tedgleichman@mac.com)>  
Subject: Port Commission Executive Director

Message Body:

I am deeply disappointed that the Port Commission failed to hold a public hearing with the three finalists available and required to answer questions from the public. The Port has been unresponsive to the public for many years, and it is very unfortunate that attitude continues to persist.

From: Elise Neibert <[elise.neibert@portofportland.com](mailto:elise.neibert@portofportland.com)>  
Subject: Port of Portland's next Executive Director

Message Body:

I support Curtis Robinhold for the position of Executive Director of the Port of Portland. I am a current Port employee, and as such, I have observed that Curtis has the skill and character needed to fill the position of Executive Director, and he has the overall experience necessary to manage an organization the size of the Port. Not only is Curtis a native Oregonian - which I believe is of great value for this position - but he also has the necessary institutional knowledge to grow and develop current and future long-term Port strategic goals and objectives. In addition, Curtis can be trusted to nurture the developing culture of diversity that he has encouraged during his tenure. Curtis is a man of integrity, and he cares deeply for our city, the region and the State of Oregon. The Port of Portland would be fortunate to have Curtis Robinhold as its Executive Director.

From: Liani Reeves <[liani.reeves@gmail.com](mailto:liani.reeves@gmail.com)>  
Subject: Curtis Robinhold

Message Body:

I wanted to lend my support for Curtis Robinhold to be selected as the next Port Director. I worked with Curtis when he was the Governor's Chief of Staff.

Curtis was a respectful, firm, and supportive manager. As an employment lawyer by training I appreciated his approach with staff. He was not afraid to tackle difficult issues and hold staff accountable. He was also supportive of his staff and their individual career development.

In addition to his management skills, he was excellent at juggling competing interests, dealing with stakeholders and constituents, and quick to understand a wide range of policy issues. He juggled many things at once and kept the office going in the same direction as a cohesive group.

More specific to the Port, he has deep understanding and interest in trans Atlantic and trans Pacific issues and relationships and on Oregon's economy. He has been effectively serving as the Deputy Director and I encourage the Commission to select him for the Director role.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance in this process.

Respectfully submitted,

Liani Reeves

From: Timme A. Helzer, Ph.D., Executive Management Consultant <[helzert@comcast.net](mailto:helzert@comcast.net)>  
Subject: Selection Process for Port of Portland's Executive Director

Message Body:

McDermott and Bull . . . and More Bull!

As an executive search firm you should be ashamed of yourselves for so totally misguiding this process. You know the Port has an absolutely despicable reputation in community relations, business performance, and environmental stewardship. Why then would you allow this process to go forward with such limited public involvement, preventing any public influence in the shaping of candidate requirements and qualifications, and blocking any public forums to introduce and engage finalists?

What you've done is perpetuate the Port's "public be damned" attitude to continue for the foreseeable future. As an executive search firm, you have not moved forward the "public good," but simply reinforced your traditional role as "head hunters," certainly a primitive term befitting your behavior in this critically important endeavor. Your heads should be atop a sharpened post at the front door of the Governor's office, best remembered for the kind of service you've provided to this state.

From: Greg Peden <[gregg@gallatinpa.com](mailto:gregg@gallatinpa.com)>  
Subject: Curtis Robinhold

Message Body:

I have known Curtis for about 25 years. I have seen him develop from a brilliant young staff person into an executive with world wide private business experience to an outstanding Chief of Staff for a Governor. In all that time, Curtis has displayed several key characteristics that I think make him the right person to lead the Port of Portland - he is diligent and hard working - whether we agree on a topic or not, Curtis responds immediately, is direct, and has always done his homework. Second, Curtis is fiercely loyal - he knows how to build a team and lead an organization. And finally, Curtis has a deep commitment to Oregon and to make Oregon a better place. I'm sure he could make a lot more money in the private sector, but that isn't what he is about, rather Curtis always makes decisions with the public interest in mind and is solution oriented. In my mind, all of this makes Curtis the perfect candidate for this job.

From: Reed Wagner <[rwagner@mcdd.org](mailto:rwagner@mcdd.org)>  
Subject: Support for Curtis Robinhold

Message Body:

Chair Carter and Port of Portland Commissioners,  
My name is Reed Wagner. I am the Executive Director of the Multnomah County Drainage District. Over the past three years I have had the pleasure to work with Mr. Robinhold as we seek a solution to challenges associated with the Columbia River levee. Curtis has not only been a great partner on this project, but has served as a community leader; ultimately helping to bring 14 public organizations (and a total of over 20 representative groups) together to align common goals, interests and support to ensure the long term effectiveness of the levee for public safety and for economic stability. I have watched as Curtis effectively balances his role as a leader by empowering and focusing his staff, maintaining necessary communications across the community and navigating the many powers of influence associated with the Port. I strongly support Mr. Robinhold as future Executive Director of the Port of Portland.

Sincerely,

Reed Wagner  
Executive Director, Multnomah County Drainage District  
503-505-4592

From: Susan Fessenden <[susanbpd@gmail.com](mailto:susanbpd@gmail.com)>

Subject: Portland would be lucky to bring on Stephanie Dawson!

Message Body:

I would love to see Ms. Dawson in this role. She clearly has the leadership and life experience to shake things up and reinvigorate the Port. While it is often nice to stay local when you can, sometimes change is needed to grow. Mr. Daniels has an impressive background as well. I believe either would serve us well, but that Ms. Dawson would lead the most positive of transitions.

From: Marj Hogan <[marj.hogan@gmail.com](mailto:marj.hogan@gmail.com)>  
Subject: Port of Portland Executive Director Position

Message Body:

Very disappointing that the Port did not hold any public forum or allow the public to get to know these candidates. The Port has missed an opportunity to promote transparency and allow candidates to demonstrate how they would make real change in Port politics.

From: Scott Bricker <[ssbricker@gmail.com](mailto:ssbricker@gmail.com)>  
Subject: Port of Portland CEO Appointment

Message Body:

As the chair of the St. Johns Neighborhood Association, I would urge the Port to strongly balance the livability of neighborhoods with the goals of Port economic development. We love our airport and value to jobs that the Port properties offer, but believe that a better balance can be achieved. I personally believe that Curtis Robinhold is the finalist who is most clearly situated to do this.

#### AIR QUALITY

Probably the largest impact of Port business on the community is air quality. This is mostly focused on trucks that access the terminals and related sites. It also relates to point-source emissions from plants and other industrial lands that may be on Port owned land. The Port is in the position to ensure that all tenants follow strict emission standards. Also the Port can provide regulatory framework for truck emissions -- imagine the positive impact to the community if the Port required all trucks working on Port business to follow modern day emission standards achievable by having newer, cleaner engines.

#### TRUCK TRAFFIC

We also urge the Port to work closely with the industrial businesses to shift truck traffic out of neighborhoods. For too long has the Port been advocating to continue to push trucks through St Johns -- over the St Johns Bridge, through the neighborhood and around the Peninsula, when in fact it would not be much longer to have trucks stay on interstate roads and have trucks use I-5. Managing time of truck use would be a critical element of this plan. For example, in Long Beach, CA they have pushed for off-peak hour truck loading and unloading at the Port to ease total traffic and increase efficiencies.

I am happy to discuss my comments and perspectives further with Port management.

Thank you.

Scott Bricker  
St. Johns Neighborhood Association - Chair

From: Regna Merritt <regna@oregonpsr.org>  
Subject: Selection of next ED for the Port of Portland

Message Body:

Thank you for considering my comments, submitted on behalf of Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility.

We are disappointed that the Port chose not to hold a public forum to introduce the finalists to the public and that the Port did not provide enough meaningful information or opportunity to allow the public and Oregon PSR to comment effectively.

Sincerely,  
Regna Merritt  
Healthy Climate Program Director, Oregon PSR  
Co-Director, Power Past

From: Greg Theisen, Port of Portland Planner <greg.theisen@portofportland.com>  
Subject: Executive Director Search

Message Body:

The Port, in particular the marine and commercial development operations, are faced with challenges of statewide significance. Please explore, with each candidate:

- 1) Their understanding of these challenges and the opportunities they represent.
- 2) With connections to operatives within Oregon and the PNW critical to the success of marine and commercial operations, what does each candidate bring to the table? Established connections could be critical for success, but with two candidates not having those connections how did they utilize such in their current positions?
- 3) With new leadership comes new approaches. Do any of the candidates have "a taste" for a lengthy initiative that might reposition the Port within the state, making it more broadly responsive and working for a larger constituency than the current three county taxing/operating district?

Thank you for the opportunity to share some thoughts.

Greg

From: Janet Roxburgh <hummingbirdzoo@yahoo.com>

Subject: Concerning Who Will be Bill Wyatt's Replacement as Executive Director.

Message Body:

To Port of Portland Decision-makers. I would like to express my thanks to you for inviting comments here, but also my disappointment that there are no public forums to introduce the three candidates for the position of new Executive Director. I decided to do some research on the three contenders myself and due to the favorable things I read about the Port of Gulfport and their obtaining a "Green Marine" designation plus being successful, I would recommend Jonathan Daniels. He seems like the best fit for a place like Portland and I think good things could be expected from him.

Thank you.

From: Darise Weller <dwell972@comcast.net>  
Subject: Port executive director

Message Body:

It is very disappointing that the public has been subverted from making any kind of informed comment on the new executive director. No public forum and only 14 days to comment, make commenting extremely difficult at best.

From: Alastair J. Roxburgh <aroxburgh@ieee.org>

Subject: Port Commissioners final selection process for the next Executive Director of the Port of Portland

Message Body:

Speaking as a Portland resident for the past five years, I am disappointed that the Port chose not to hold a public forum to introduce the finalists in the Port's current search for a new Executive Director. Moreover, I am also disappointed that the Port did not provide enough meaningful information or sufficient time and opportunity to allow the public to comment effectively, and for the candidates to respond. Although all three candidates have some impressive credentials, I believe that Jonathan Daniels stands head and shoulders above the other candidates. His 'green marine' experience with the Port of Gulfport makes him uniquely qualified to take the Port of Portland to new heights of efficiency and effectiveness, while respecting and understanding our region's and Portland's sincere desire to continue on the path to green technologies and sustainability by encouraging those industries who subscribe to the idea that long-term prosperity requires sustainability. Please select Jonathan Daniels to be the new Executive Director. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

From: Lise Glancy <[lise.glancy@portofportland.com](mailto:lise.glancy@portofportland.com)>

Subject: Executive Director Interviews

Message Body:

1. What is your vision going forward for the three Port business lines?
2. How will you balance this vision in away that addresses the General Fund financial challenges and meets community goals?
3. What leadership style do you envision employing to inspire staff through the transition of vision and turnover of staff?
4. How will you balance leadership with active dialogue?

From: Rachel Hill <[hill.rachel@gmail.com](mailto:hill.rachel@gmail.com)>  
Subject: Port of Portland Executive Director

Message Body:

Hello, I am the Land Use Chair of the St Johns Nbhd Assn. I also live very close to the port in St Johns. For years we have tried (sometimes more successfully than others) to engage the port in the neighborhood. You (the Port) are a neighbor and what you do affects us, and what we do in many ways affects you. I am frustrated that so little information was provided for the candidates for the Director position. I'd like to know more about them, as it is important that we choose someone who is interested in being a good partner in looking at, addressing and participating in issues that affect St Johns. I don't know who you recommend since I really could not find any significant information about anyone. Why ask for comments if you don't provide an opportunity to learn about the candidates.

The time allowed for comments and the lack of information is disappointing.

Rachel Hill

From: Bob Sallinger <[bsallinger@audubonportland.org](mailto:bsallinger@audubonportland.org)>

Subject: Port of Portland Executive Director Search Comments from Portland Audubon Society and Willamette Riverkeeper

Message Body:

April 24, 2017

Dear Members of the Port of Portland Commission,

We are writing on behalf of the Audubon Society of Portland and Willamette Riverkeeper. We are both non-profit conservation organizations with more than 25,000 members in the Portland Metropolitan Region. Both organizations focus heavily on urban conservation issues and our work regularly intersects with the Port of Portland. On some issues our relationship with the Port is adversarial but on other issues we work cooperatively. The issues on which we have intersected with the Port of Portland in recent years include Portland Harbor Superfund, West Hayden Island, Airport Futures, PDX Wildlife Hazard Management Plan, Willamette North Reach River Plan, Columbia River Crossing, and many others.

In general, we have been troubled by what we view as a lack of leadership at the Port of Portland on conservation (and particularly natural resources) issues and a frequent lack of meaningful engagement with the local community. Too often, the Port seems to forget that it is in fact a public agency and approaches public process more like a business negotiation –trying to cut the best possible deal for itself and other industrial interests at the expense of the public interest. We look to the Port of Portland to serve as a bridge between industrial interests and the broader community but it rarely in our opinion achieves this objective. Until the Port truly embraces its role as a public agency, with true accountability to the broad public, we believe that the Port will continue to be mired in the kinds of conflicts that have repeatedly marked its ambitions over the past two decades. This is a critical time for the Port of Portland and bold and visionary leadership is needed to address longstanding economic, equity and environmental challenges faced by the Port.

General Comments on the Hiring Process:

We are disappointed in the process that the Port Commission has adopted to select the next executive director. Portland Audubon, Willamette Riverkeeper and many other entities that commented on the job description earlier in the process highlighted the importance of incorporating robust public engagement into the hiring process including providing an opportunity for the public to meet and ask questions of the finalists. While the Port did form a small advisory group, that was not representative of the community that is impacted by the Port and it in fact perpetuates the Port's longstanding pattern of trying to control who actually had access to its "public" processes. By explicitly rejecting requests to hold a public forum, we believe the Port missed a significant opportunity to send a message to both the finalists and the public that real and meaningful public engagement would be a high priority in the coming years.

We were further disappointed by the messaging sent to the public by the Port and the Port Commission which at times was overtly hostile towards the public participating in the executive director hiring process. One example is Port of Portland Commission Chair, Jim Carter, who according to the Oregonian Editorial Board (which also called for the Port to hold a public forum) "derided the proposition of face-to-face meetings with the finalists as

counterproductive stating ‘A public forum to have the loudest voices heard would not help.’”  
[http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2017/04/port\\_of\\_portland\\_must\\_bring\\_it.html](http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2017/04/port_of_portland_must_bring_it.html)

Another example is the keynote speaker at the Port’s Gateway to the Globe Luncheon who explicitly called out Portland Audubon for having the audacity to attempt to participate in the hiring process. We understand that the Port may have limited control over what their keynote speaker says, but a comment attacking a public interest group for participating in a public process should have been repudiated by Port leadership. It wasn’t.

A third recent example is the Port Commission Chair who has twice rejected, without allowing for any commission discussion, requests by Audubon that the Port Commission include a short general public comment period in its commission meeting agenda. We have pointed out that the lack of a general comment period at Port Commission meetings creates an unnecessary barrier to public participation since the public, which already had to travel to the airport to be heard, must show up not knowing when or if they will be allowed to speak.

The 14-day written comment period and very limited information about the finalists provided by the Port comes off not as meaningful public engagement, but rather as a cynical attempt to check the public engagement box. It requires the public to do its own research on the finalists on an expedited timeline or to base their comments on information that is cursory at best. That is not a reasonable expectation.

The Port Commission has justified its hiring process based on the argument that it has done what is required of a public agency. While this may be true, what it fails to acknowledge is that the goal is not to meet minimum requirements, but rather to meet the needs of the public it serves. In this process, the Port has instead perpetuated an image that is disdainful and at times overtly hostile towards the public it is supposed to serve.

Portland Audubon/ Willamette Riverkeeper Interviews with the finalists:

Since the Port chose not to make the finalists available for a public forum, Portland Audubon and Willamette Riverkeeper extended an invitation to all three finalists to be interviewed by our organizations. Had there been more time available, we would have held a virtual town hall, but under the constrained circumstances provided by the Port, joint interviews with each of the finalists was the best that we could accomplish. We had also planned to post these interviews so that they would be accessible to the public. However, one finalist declined to give permission for their interview to be taped and posted due to restrictions put in place by their employer and there were technical challenges with another interview. In order to be fair to all the candidates we ultimately chose not to post any of the interviews.

We were pleased that all three finalists accepted our invitation to be interviewed. All three finalists were interviewed via Skype using a similar format and questions. Bob Sallinger and Travis Williams interviewed Jonathan Daniels. Bob Sallinger interviewed Curtis Robinhold. Bob Sallinger and Kate Ross interviewed Stephanie Dawson. We found all three interviews to be useful and all three finalists to have interesting things to say. We believe that these interviews will help set the stage for further productive dialogue with whoever is ultimately selected as the Executive Director.

We do plan to continue to actively create opportunities for the next Port Director to interact much more directly and frequently than has been facilitated by the Port in the past. It is important to note that the business community had tremendous access to the Port through the coalitions in which the Port is a member, through the course of its operations and through its interactions with its tenants and clients, etc. The surrounding community has far less opportunity although it bears the brunt of the impacts of the Port's activities.

Comments on the Finalists for the Executive Director Position:

All three finalists boast impressive resumes and all three gave what seemed to be candid answers to our questions. Each would bring significant skills and experience to the job. However, none of the three finalists struck us as the type of change agent that the Port needs (Jonathan Daniels comes the closest). All three appeared to us to be fairly deeply entrenched in Port culture and the majority of the answers we heard felt very much like "inside the box" thinking. We heard very little that gave us confidence that any of three finalists were likely to bring a strong sense of vision or innovation to the job or was prepared to take the kind of hard look at Port operations that can lead to major changes. Obviously there is a limit to what can be learned in a 45-60 minute interview, but there was a striking lack of exciting new and innovative ideas or approaches in all three interviews. It is unfortunate that the Port of Portland did not bring forward at least one finalist who might be considered less of a traditional port leader and who might have presented a wider range of approaches to the challenges facing the Port. All three felt a bit like "status quo" leaders.

Also very notable in our opinion is that two out of the three candidates did not have any questions for either Portland Audubon or Willamette Riverkeeper. We told each finalist at the start of the interview that we would leave time for their questions at the end of the interview and made sure to provide that opportunity. It is usually a red flag when a job applicant doesn't have any questions, but all the more so in a situation like this where two community groups had gone to extensive effort seek out an opportunity to meet with the applicants. We would have expected at least some level of curiosity about our perspectives on the Port as well as other issues. The fact that two candidates, Curtis Robinhold and Stephanie Dawson declined that opportunity is a significant concern. Jonathan Daniels in contrast had several questions including questions about what we would like to see from the Port and how we would approach working through areas of disagreement with the Port. We believe that it is critical that the next Port director have a sincere commitment to getting to know the community that surrounds the Port and two of the three finalists blew this simple test.

Curtis Robinhold: We appreciate Mr. Robinhold's years of public service. He brings the strongest background in natural resource issues of the three candidates. He also brings firsthand knowledge of our local communities to the job. We appreciated his discussion of the need for the Port to do a better job of reaching out to the community where its impacts are most heavily felt. We also appreciated his recognition that the Port should focus not only on its own operations but also on its partners, tenants and customers when it comes to environmental issues such as carbon neutrality. We were pleased to hear Mr. Robinhold state that he accepts the fossil fuel storage facility ban adopted by the City of Portland last year ("certainly accept it. It's done") as well as his statements regarding the importance of the Port leading on reducing consumption of fossil fuels.

We agree with Mr. Robinhold that the biggest environmental issue facing the Port under its next director will be implementing the Portland Harbor Superfund Cleanup. On this issue Mr. Robinhold presents the biggest opportunity but also the biggest question mark of the three candidates. On the positive side he is up to speed on this complex issue and would potentially be able to move the Port expeditiously into the implementation phase. We appreciated in his interview the priority that he placed on this issue, his acknowledgment that challenging the Record of Decision would not be productive, and his recognition that the Port could and should do more to protect vulnerable populations during at cleanup which even under a best case scenario will take years to fully implement. On the negative side, it was under Mr. Robinhold's leadership during the past three years that the Port aggressively advocated for a weak cleanup plan that was unacceptable to the local community. It was also under his leadership that the Port issued a very disappointing and inflammatory statement criticizing the EPA's record of decision literally within hours of the decision being issued---a stark contrast with other public agencies involved in this process which chose instead to issue more conciliatory statements focusing on moving the community forward. In summary, his comments regarding Superfund in the interview were in our opinion on target, but his track record to date on this issue raises serious concerns.

Our biggest concern is that we have not seen anything during Mr. Robinhold's time as Deputy Director of the Port that suggests that he would significantly alter the way the Port operates. If anything, the Port's challenges on environmental issues and community engagement seem to us to have increased in recent years. We were troubled to hear Mr. Robinhold double down on some of the Port's most controversial environmental issues such as West Hayden Island that we believe that it is going to be important for the next executive director to be open to taking a fresh look at some of the most controversial and intractable issues facing the Port. We are left with the sense that Mr. Robinhold has the experience to be a far stronger leader on environmental and community engagement related issues than we have seen to date, but we are not necessarily confident based on the track record to date that he will get there. We would urge the Port Commission to ask Mr. Robinhold specifically what he would do differently in terms of community engagement and also in terms of his approach to longstanding Port challenges. Internal candidates certainly can benefit from their years of seeing things from the inside and be very adept at making needed changes, but we are not convinced at this point that Mr. Robinhold would not be more of a status quo leader.

Jonathan Daniels: Mr. Daniels brought a great deal of enthusiasm to his interview and provided the most expansive answers to our questions. He demonstrated that he had done a good deal of research on the Port of Portland and was able to speak in some detail to many of the Port of Portland issues we discussed. He also demonstrated that he has taken a hands on approach in his current position and was able to discuss in detail the approaches that Gulfport has taken to issues such as community outreach, programs to engage underserved communities, Superfund clean-up processes, environmental restoration, etc. We were impressed with his stated commitment to getting out into the community and his insistence that he would go and meet firsthand with the public on issues of conflict ("I will be directly involved in the process. I will be there.") He also indicated that he wanted to see the Port go above and beyond minimum requirements on environmental issues. One part of the interview that sticks out is Mr. Daniels discussion of the specific ways in which the Port of Gulfport has worked to help ensure that Port jobs go to the local community and specifically to underrepresented communities.

At the same time, it also appeared to us that the Port of Portland is at least an order of magnitude more complex than Mr. Daniels current position. The examples he cited while impressive in their own right were often a fraction of the complexity of parallel issues he will face in Portland. For example, while Mr. Daniels has worked on Superfund cleanup program, it was a small fraction of the complexity that he will face in Portland Harbor. When he talked about building trust with the local community, it seemed that this involved a very small number of groups as opposed to Portland where he will need to engage with a tremendous number of diverse groups.

Additionally, while Mr. Daniels should be proud of his efforts to enroll Gulfport in the Green Ports Program, we would note that we view this program largely as a baseline environmental evaluation program, closer to the bare minimum than the cutting edge. The Port of Portland is already engaged in much more sophisticated environmental programs.

We would urge the Port Commission to continue to explore whether Mr. Daniels has the experience to truly take the Port of Portland to the next level, from an economic, environment and community engagement perspective.

Stephanie Dawson: Ms. Dawson brings a very intriguing resume' to this process. Her current position as Chief Operations Office at the Port of New York/ New Jersey places her in charge of a port that is orders of magnitude more complex than the Port of Portland. She described her current job as "knitting together" the five distinct areas of Port operation. Some of these areas standing alone would be significantly larger and more complex than the Port of Portland in its entirety.

It was not clear to us from the interview that she specifically wanted the Port of Portland Executive Director job. When we asked her why she was interested in the position, she focused mainly on her desire to be an executive director of a multimodal port although she did also note that Portland was ecofriendly, bike friendly and place that was popular with young people. There was a lack of specificity about the Port of Portland that manifested itself throughout the interview and Ms. Dawson noted towards the end of the interview that she had only done a limited amount of research to date on the Port and hoped to do more in the coming weeks. Our hope would have been that a finalist for the Executive Director for the Port of Portland would have a deeper understanding of the Port of Portland at this point in the process.

It also appeared to us from the interview, that in her current position, Ms. Dawson has a number of layers of staffing between herself and the on the ground operations of the Port of New York/ New Jersey and its engagement with the community. There were several questions where we noted a lack of specificity or knowledge of programs and projects within the Port of New York/ New Jersey. We also noted a number of points where Ms. Dawson defaulted to either federal regulatory processes or public relations departments as the answer to how she would deal with certain situations. Perhaps this is to be expected in a Port operation of this size, but it left us wondering how Ms. Dawson would do in the Port of Portland Director's position which appears to be much less remote from the operations and the community and where, in our opinion, significant additional progress still needs to be made. We believe that the next Port of Portland Director needs to be more hands on and more engaged with the local community

and it was not clear in the interview that Ms. Dawson would represent a step forward in this arena.

Ms. Dawson clearly has some very interesting and intriguing experience at a Port that is much more complex than the Port of Portland. We would urge the Port Commission to carefully explore whether the skill set of the Operations Director of a Port of this magnitude is the best fit for the needs of the Port of Portland.

In conclusion, we are not prepared at this time to endorse any of the three finalists for the position of Port of Portland Executive Director. We appreciate the time that all three finalists were willing to spend with us, but they all left us with significant questions and concerns about whether they were prepared to be the kind of change agent that we believe the Port needs. We have tried to provide the insights that we were able to glean from our interactions with the finalists. Finally we would reiterate that while we felt it was beneficial for Portland Audubon and Willamette Riverkeeper to have the opportunity to meet with the finalists, we believe that the Port missed a far bigger opportunity to send a strong message to both the finalists and to the community that real and meaningful community engagement is a priority for the Port of Portland.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Bob Sallinger  
Conservation Director  
Audubon Society of Portland

Travis Williams  
Executive Director  
Willamette Riverkeeper

From: Debbie Kitchin <[dkitchin@interworksllc.com](mailto:dkitchin@interworksllc.com)>  
Subject: executive search for Port of Portland

Message Body:

I would like to express my strong support for Curtis Robinhold as an ideal candidate for executive director of the Port of Portland. Mr. Robinhold is highly qualified for the position. He has extensive contacts with the business community as well as with political leaders in the state. He is a great person to bridge the gap and bring leaders from many divergent viewpoints together. He is well respected throughout the state. He has the ability to lead and to make tough decisions. His experience as deputy executive director has prepared him for the role. I think he is uniquely qualified for this position. Thank you for the opportunity to express my views.

From: SHARON MAXWELL <[shamaxhend@acninc.net](mailto:shamaxhend@acninc.net)>  
Subject: HIRING NEW director

Message Body:

I hope we can grow in diversity and not be stuck in old paradigm, that we need a progressive mind and someone with demonstrate that here in the Region.

From: Steven Powers <[spowers@pfglaw.com](mailto:spowers@pfglaw.com)>  
Subject: Curtis Robinhold

Message Body:

Please accept these comments on candidate Curtis Robinhold for Port Executive Director. I was one of Curtis's colleagues in the Office of the Governor for over four years. I believe Curtis should be the next Executive Director for at least four reasons:

**Authentic and direct management style:** Curtis is straight forward and manages well up and down the organizational chart. He empowers subordinates and keeps the whole team focused on the shared goals.

**Significant management experience, including current responsibility for all Port operations:** Running the Office of the Governor and by extension much of the executive branch of the State of Oregon is no easy task. Curtis demonstrated his ability to lead a large organization and effect positive change.

**Deep community and political connections and experience:** As a native Oregonian and one that had been heavily involved across the state for more than a decade, Curtis brings connections and relationships that will benefit the Port.

**Public policy experience on transportation, trade, and environment:** Curtis has both public and private experience in trade and environment that will help him and the Port team succeed in this ever-changing environment.

Thank you for allowing me to submit these comments. I hope Curtis is hired as the next Executive Director.

From: Brett Brownscombe <[brett.brownscombe@gmail.com](mailto:brett.brownscombe@gmail.com)>  
Subject: Executive Director hiring process--comment on finalists

Message Body:

I write to encourage the selection of Curtis Robinhold as the Port of Portland's next executive director. I worked under Curtis as a natural resource policy advisor while he served as Governor John Kitzhaber's chief of staff. In that job, Curtis deftly managed a team of staff engaged in challenging policy, political, and budget issues. His leadership and management style ensured focus on priorities and timely guidance where needed, while empowering staff and allowing them to excel. Further, in a job that involved contentious issues affecting public and private interests, Curtis prioritized and maintained effective working relationships with people across diverse sectors, interests, and backgrounds.

I feel fortunate to have worked under Curtis and recommend him highly as a leader who, in short, knows how to direct and succeed. I believe his network of relationships, management skills, and ability to work well with others has already greatly benefitted the Port and would serve the Port even better with him as executive director. Curtis is a charismatic and effective leader with skills that would benefit the Port in both its internal and external relationships. And more than that, he operates and leads with integrity.

From: V. McC <[valdamccauley@hotmail.com](mailto:valdamccauley@hotmail.com)>  
Subject: It's time for change.

Message Body:  
Move forward, it's time for change.

From: Bob Carroll <[bob@ibew48.com](mailto:bob@ibew48.com)>  
Subject: Port Executive Director Candidates

Message Body:

the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48 endorses Curtis Robinhold as the next Executive Director. He has the qualities and the drive to do the job

From: Sean O'Hollaren <[sean.ohollaren@nike.com](mailto:sean.ohollaren@nike.com)>

Subject: Recommendation of Curtis Robinhold as Executive Director of the Port of Portland

Message Body:

Commissioner Jim Carter  
Port of Portland Commission  
P.O. Box 3529  
Portland, OR 97208-3529

Dear Commissioner Carter:

As the Commission decides who will lead the daily operations of the Port of Portland as Executive Director, I want to urge you to favorably consider the application of Curtis Robinhold.

The Commission can undoubtedly cast the net far and wide to find the most qualified Executive Director for Port. The best suited for the task, however, is someone you already know as is close at hand. Curtis Robinhold has proven his capability and capacity to serve as Executive Director of the Port of Portland. Curtis has a deep understanding and working knowledge of both the public and private sectors and has demonstrated the ability to forge alliances and partnerships needed to get things done. Curtis listens well and considers the perspectives of broad and often competing points of view, yet is decisive and able to define clear priorities and objectives. He is operational and strategic and adroit at choosing others in which he has confidence in delegating authority.

Curtis has the needed working relationships and political acumen to hit the ground running and keep the Port on track and assure a seamless transition in leadership. He is a fitting legacy to Bill Wyatt and has the vision to take on future challenges and elevate the Port to the next level of performance.

The Port of Portland would be wise to choose Curtis Robinhold as its next Executive Director. You will not find a more qualified choice than the one closest to you. Any other choice exposes the Port to risk and threatens the positive momentum in place.

All the best,

Sean O'Hollaren  
Senior Vice President  
Government and Public Affairs  
Nike, Inc.

From: Amy Prosenjak <[amy@atozwineworks.com](mailto:amy@atozwineworks.com)>  
Subject: Curtis Robinhold support

Message Body:

The transformation at the Port of Portland under Curtis Robinhold's direction is nothing short of amazing. A to Z Wineworks enjoys working with him and supports Curtis's bid for Executive Director. His focus on economic development and fair and ethical business is more of what our city needs.

From: Mike Bonetto <[mbonetto@tenfoldhealth.com](mailto:mbonetto@tenfoldhealth.com)>  
Subject: Curtis Robinhold

Message Body:

I had the pleasure of working with Curtis Robinhold for three years in the Oregon Governor's Office. I worked directly under Curtis as the health policy advisor. I found him to be an amazing leader that provided an appropriate level of direction, flexibility and support that allowed all employees to thrive. He created an atmosphere that was professional, respectful and produced outstanding results.

His international business and management background gives him a unique skill set that Oregon needs - and I believe the Port would be extremely well served by having him as the next Executive Director. I couldn't recommend him highly enough for the Executive Director position.