



Oregon
Environmental
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It's Your Oregon

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**Testimony to the House Agriculture and Natural Resources
Committee on HB 2209
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Founded in 1968, the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership-based organization. We advance innovative, collaborative solutions to Oregon's environmental challenges for today and future generations.

The Oregon Environmental Council joins with bill sponsors in being concerned about the shellfish industry. As one of the "canary in the coal mine" species for climate change, the shellfish industry is already seeing impacts of ocean acidification.

This had lead to a collaboration called the West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel--a joint project by 20 leading scientists from Oregon, Washington, California and British Columbia. Oregon is represented by scientists from OSU and a NOAA scientists based at the University of Oregon.

Ocean acidification occurs when we load the atmosphere with too much CO₂--a potent climate pollutant. It dissolves in ocean water, changing the chemistry at levels that are already measurable and having an impact. Oyster hatcheries have already experienced declines and deformities in the way shells form because of higher pH levels. The West Coast collaboration is also connecting scientists and their monitoring equipment directly with the shellfish industry, make this an impactful partnership.

We hope any task force looks into the impacts of ocean acidification, including reducing the root cause of ocean acidification and that the good work already being done by the science panel and its industry partners.