

Co-chair Rayfield, Co-chair Devlin and committee members:

My name is Tamara Mautner, and my husband and I own a charter fishing business in Garibaldi, Oregon. My family has been directly involved in the charter business and fishing advisory panels for over 15 years. My brother is employed by the ODFW.

The Charter industry is strongly against the fee increases to the daily angling and shellfish licenses contained in SB247. I urge you to carefully consider the negative impact this bill will have on coastal communities if this proposal is approved "as is".

As a business owner, I understand that price increases are inevitable, and I think most people understand when prices increase slightly every few years. However, I also know that a large increase in daily license fees will be enough to stop many people from coming to Oregon to fish, crab or clam. I believe they will turn elsewhere, or simply opt out of fishing all-together which will leave the ODFW even shorter on funds.

The proposed fee schedule for the non-resident shellfish license represents an increase of **65%** over 6 years. The ODFW is asking hunters and anglers to bear the burden of a *slight* fee increase, but the burden placed in particular on people who wish to purchase a daily license or shellfish license is unreasonable and far too great.

Guy Norman (of WDFW) recently said, "*We think that by selectively reducing certain fees we can increase the number of hunters, and thereby increase revenue.*" I believe the ODFW could learn something from this statement. If we keep daily fishing and shellfish license fees reasonable (especially to first timers and beginners like we see so often in the charter industry), we will build a sturdy consumer base for the product. More people fishing equals more license revenue. There is no long-term benefit from pricing out our future customers.

We coastal communities depend on our out-of-state visitors to drive our economy. If they are continually bombarded by large increased fees in Oregon, they will go elsewhere. This will not only affect charter fishermen, but also hotels, restaurants, markets, gas stations, seafood processors, and virtually every other business in our tourism-driven economies. Our prices are already higher than the "competition" (Washington, California, and yes, even Idaho). If our prices continue to rise much higher than our "competitors," we will lose business. With up to 41% of our fishermen coming from another state, neither the ODFW nor the coastal communities of Oregon can afford to risk losing the business of our out-of-state visitors.

I would like to propose a cap, or at least a smaller fee increase on the daily angling and shellfish licenses and/or a combination option for shellfish and angling license that brings us more in line with our neighboring states. I believe this would offer reasonably priced options that won't devastate the coastal economy, and incentive for beginners and visitors to get excited about fishing while still providing revenue to the ODFW.

Thank you for considering these recommendations.

Tamara and Ty Mautner

Owners Garibaldi Charters



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