

To the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources,

Kari and I are writing to ask you to vote "yes" on the seaweed bill (HB3193).

The Oregon State Legislature *unintentionally* shut down our seaweed harvest in Oregon in 2011 with the passage of SB600. Now we must go to California to harvest seaweeds for our thriving family business (Naturespirit Herbs LLC, established in 1990). This has imposed considerable economic hardship on us.

Although DSL is the agency authorized to issue permits for the harvest of kelp and other seaweeds, most of the seaweed species that we harvest are situated in the intertidal zone, which is also under OPRD's jurisdiction, and OPRD does not have the mandate to issue permits for any kind of commercial harvest.

HB3193 fixes the problem of these conflicting territorial jurisdictions by assigning jurisdiction over seaweeds to ODFW. ODFW governs by the organism, not by territory. HB3193 would make the regulation of seaweed harvesting comparable to the regulation of clam or mussel harvesting in Oregon.

Oregon is the only west coast state in which the Department of Fish and Wildlife is *not* responsible for the management of the harvest of seaweeds. Furthermore, California, Alaska and British Columbia have had effective small-scale commercial hand harvesting permit systems in place for decades. We could learn much from their experience.

Passage of HB3193 gives Oregon the opportunity to develop a sustainable new cottage industry. There is a steadily increasing demand in the USA for high quality domestic seaweeds, as gourmet foods and as therapeutic dietary supplements. Currently, almost all of the edible and medicinal seaweeds consumed in this country are imported.

Therefore, passage of HB3193 would be beneficial to our family business, to Oregon's coastal economies, to restaurants, to the local food movement, and to people's health.

Please give this bill a chance and keep it moving!

Sincerely,  
James and Kari

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