



**West Coast Seafood Processors Association**  
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February 12, 2018

Oregon Senate Committee on General Government and Accountability  
Sen. Kim Thatcher, vice-chair  
Sen. Mark Hass  
Sen. Dennis Linthicum  
Sen. James Manning Jr.  
Sen. Floyd Prozanski

Via email to: [sgga.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:sgga.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov)

Re: SB 1514-3

Dear Vice-chair Thatcher, and Sens. Hass, Linthicum, Manning Jr. and Prozanski:

On behalf of the West Coast Seafood Processors Association (WCSPA), I am writing in **support of the SB 1514-3**, the amendment to the bill that establishes periodic sunset review of state boards, commissions, committees and task forces. The WCSPA does not support SB 1514 as originally written.

Our members represent shore-based seafood processors, fishermen and associated businesses with primary headquarters in Washington, Oregon and California. Collectively, our members process every seafood species available on the West Coast.

The four state seafood commodity commissions – Oregon Trawl Commission, Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission, Oregon Salmon Commission and Oregon Albacore Commission – are all *industry-funded* commodity commissions, unlike other state boards, commissions and task forces. While their oversight falls under the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the boards comprise citizens involved in and knowledgeable about these fisheries. They dedicate a significant amount of their time to the commissions' overall goals of promotion, education and research about Oregon's main commercial fisheries.

These industry-funded commissions perform functions that would be too expensive for our individual companies to take on. The public may also get confused by individual promotions. For example, generic media ads for Dungeness crab at the start of the season boosts public exposure so consumers may likely visit local grocery stores or restaurants. Marine Stewardship Council certification of Dungeness crab (previously), pink shrimp and groundfish as sustainable commodities lets domestic consumers and buyers – as well as foreign buyers looking to import sustainable seafood products from a number of companies – know these seafood products are managed well. If it weren't for the commodity commissions, these kinds of promotions may not be possible.

Requiring the seafood commodity commissions to routinely detail their value is unnecessary as detailed in the original draft of SB 1514; the -3 amendment takes care of this issue. Since the

commodity commissions are self-funded, the industry members are cognizant of their worth and the directions they take. State representatives to the commissions maintain sufficient oversight to ensure the commissions comply with all applicable laws, rules and protocols.

**The -3 amendment to exempt industry-funded commissions formed under ORS 576.062 boards or task forces** would ensure our state seafood commodity commissions can continue to do their valued work for several years.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori L. Steele".

Lori Steele  
Executive Director

CC: Hugh Link, Executive Director Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission  
Brad Pettinger, Director, Oregon Trawl Commission  
Nancy Fitzpatrick, Executive Director, Oregon Salmon Commission and Oregon Albacore  
Commission  
Sen. Arnie Roblan  
Sen. Betsy Johnson  
Sen. Jeff Kruse