

April 13, 2019

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Subcommittee on Education, Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Lew Fredrick, Co-Chair  
Representative Susan McLain, Co-Chair  
900 Court Street NE, Room H-178  
Salem, OR 97301

Senator Fredrick and Representative McLain,

My name is Alan Pazar. I am a long-term commercial fisherman having started fishing with my father in Oregon waters in 1964. I am writing today to encourage you to continue to support Oregon State University's Oceangoing Research Vessel Program through HB 5024.

I have long been a supporter of oceanographic and fishery research and have often worked closely with OSU and their Ship Operations. OSU's research activities are world class and utilize cutting edge technologies to monitor, learn and offer solutions to today's complex questions regarding our shared ocean. In my role as owner/operator of a private research vessel (R/V *Pacific Surveyor*) I have had the opportunity to work with many State and Federal agencies and private institutions in our common goal of expanding ocean understanding. Oregon State University stands second to none in the depth and quality of research and education in ocean sciences. The Oceangoing Research Vessel Program is an integral part of this.

Rapidly changing ocean chemistry must be observed, understood and conclusions acted on to promote the biological sustainability of our ocean resources, many of which provide nourishing protein for a growing population. Continued and expanded monitoring is essential to provide fishery managers good information to make good management decisions to help keep not just fisheries sustainable and well managed, but to protect and bolster coastal economies that are so closely connected to the sea.

The educational and training opportunities that OSU's Ship Ops provide cannot be overstated. Our next generation of original thinking research scientists are students and fledgling researchers today, enrolled in one of many areas of marine study that OSU offers, all needing access to sea to test hypotheses and expand existing programs to help make tomorrow's world better.

Valuable work has been done in the study and understanding of rising sea temperatures, ocean acidification, hypoxia and mapping of nearshore bottom for tsunami prediction and survival. Fisheries research coupled with new genetic study techniques has expanded our understanding and will help give us the tools to have healthy fish stocks for generations to come.

None of this is possible without access to sea. Newport, Oregon, on Yaquina Bay, is uniquely positioned and qualified to home port OSU's Research Fleet. As NOAA has discovered after relocating their West Coast Research Fleet to Yaquina Bay from Seattle, Washington: the travel time to sea is a matter of minutes; the channel and bar are deep and easily navigated; marine support businesses are extraordinarily abundant and extremely skilled. Visitors to the area with marine science backgrounds are in awe of the concentration of support for our various research activities.

Please act to continue to support the OSU Research Fleet by funding the provision in HB 5024 for the 2019-2021 biennium on April 18, 2019 The health of our region, our State, our country and our world are counting on it!

Thank you for your consideration.

Alan Pazar