



Chairs Senator Beyer and Representative McKeown
Joint Committee on Transportation
Salem, Oregon

April 22, 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB2284. These comments are provided on behalf of the Midwater Trawlers Cooperative (MTC). MTC is a non-profit trade association that represents 28 large commercial trawl vessels and the majority of our member vessels are home-ported in Newport. MTC members are some of the primary users of Newport's International Terminal, and we have been paying customers at that location for more than 40 years. MTC members fish off the west coast for whiting and groundfish and they are a major part of Oregon's successful Distant Water Fleet- which means our vessels spend a portion of the year fishing in federal fisheries off of Alaska. On this particular issue, MTC has also been the spokesperson for the broader fishing community in Newport. MTC members as well as the broader fishing community are opposed to HB2284. We believe HB2284 is unnecessary and it undermines the current activities at the Port. We also believe it jeopardizes a segment of Oregon's commercial fishing industry which contributes over \$100 million annually into Oregon's economy.

Supporters of the bill appear to argue that the bill is necessary to diversify Newports economy, including potentially increasing freight traffic. As I will note, we believe Newports economy has been growing and diversifying without the bill and, indeed, while not certain to be fruitful, MTC supports increasing freight in Newport. We just dont believe it should be done in a manner that hurts our robust and growing seafood harvesting and processing sector.

I co-chaired the committee to get the bond measure passed in 2006 to rebuild the mixed-use International Terminal. The intent of the bond measure was 3-fold: deal with the environmental concerns of the leaking contaminants into Yaquina Bay and rebuild the work dock to continue to support commercial fishing and to reintroduce shipping which had not occurred in the Port since 1999.

The environmental remediation took up a majority of the \$15.4 million dollar bond measure so the Port turned to state and federal grants and loans to complete the initial phase of the project. They have been actively seeking shipping opportunities since that time, but no deals have worked out. Contrary to what you might have heard, businesses are not beating down the door to ship out of Newport- there are several operational challenges in the Newport location including a small space (3 acres), no railroad,

bridge height constraints and a limit on the number of large trucks that can deliver goods to the Terminal on a daily basis.

As the Port embarked on a process to reintroduce shipping, Oregon's commercial fishing industry continued to grow and prosper. With a rebuilt Terminal, several seafood processors, access to three shipyards on the Yaquina River and a multitude of service providers, Newport is the only full-service Port in Oregon. With Hatfield Marine Science Center, NOAA and the OSU Marine Studies Initiative, Newport is also the go-to Port for all things marine research and education-related. Tourism is huge for the state of Oregon and the tourists come to Newport in part, for the access to an authentic working waterfront. To see the boats up-close and experience life in a fishing town.

Over 300 commercial fishing vessels call Newport home and more vessels are trying to access year-round moorage in Newport. The Newport industry supports thousands of Oregon jobs and in 2017 we were responsible for over 17% of the earned income in Lincoln County, contributing \$171 million into the state's economy. The Port of Newport and the rebuilt Terminal are critical to this success.

The Terminal is critical to the industry's success because it is where the vessels are serviced. Where they load, off-load and store fishing gear, vessels that are too large to fit at the fuel dock have fuel delivered by tankers to the vessels, seafood is unloaded at the Terminal, vessels stage at the Terminal before moving up-river to the shipyards for routine maintenance and large overhaul projects, and because it is the only space in the Port of Newport that large fishing vessels can moor at. There are no other docks in the Port that can accommodate the size and needs of these local vessels. Other businesses that support fishing are adjacent to the Terminal and investment on private land around the Terminal is developing even more services to support fishing. Right now the Terminal is full with a transient squid fleet that followed the squid stock north. There are several vessels, unloading equipment and semi trucks working daily to offload squid and truck it down to California for processing.

HB2284 threatens the economy built around the Port of Newport with no real benefit. Removing the right of local tax-paying citizens to elect their leadership and have a say in how their Port is run is contrary to democracy. HB2284 is unnecessary – fishing does not now, nor has it ever, had an undue influence over the Port Commission. In fact, in the last twenty years non-fishing interests have had the majority on the 5-person Commission in all but two years. In the last 20 years, 78% of candidates running for Port Commission ran unopposed – this leaves plenty of room for others to get involved if they don't like the direction the Port is headed in. HB2284 takes the extraordinary step of assigning who can sit on the Commission. It mandates a fishing minority and promotes a shipping majority. HB2284 is a direct threat to Newport's fishing industry.

All types of commercial fishing boats are using the Terminal throughout the year. Between April 1 and May 15th and between November 1st and January 10th the Terminal is fully utilized with fishing boats- they are often tied two and three deep because there isn't enough dock space to all fit alongside the

pier. There is a significant amount of commerce happening for the community, the county and the State. On an annual basis the vessels that use the Terminal are contributing \$500K directly to the Port and they are spending millions locally and in the state of Oregon to support their businesses. The vessels that use the Terminal just agreed to support a proposal to raise the rates charged by almost 70% in the next fiscal year.

The Newport fishing industry is not opposed to shipping. We do support an operation that can work with existing users in the space available. HB2284 is unnecessary and it has the potential to harm the fishing industry which will have negative economic impacts throughout the county and state of Oregon. That is why the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners, the City of Newport, the Port of Newport and the Port of Toledo all support local control. The Port of Newport's Commercial Fishing User's Committee that represents all commercial users in the Port opposes this legislation. Over the weekend we collected over 150 signatures on a petition opposing HB2284. These are local citizens, commercial fishermen, recreational fishermen, mayors, and businesses who are all opposed to HB2284. MTC and the broader fishing community urge this Committee to take no further action on this divisive and unhelpful legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather Mann".

Heather Mann

Midwater Trawlers Cooperative

<u>First</u>	<u>Last</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Aja	Burke	Englune Marine
Andrew	Bornstein	Bornstein Seafoods
Angela	Linn	local Resident
Angie	Richards	local resident
April	Balfour	local Resident
April	Cochran	F/V Bay Islander
Axel	McQuaw	F/V Marathon
Barbara	Dudley	Newport resident
Becky	Kowalsky	local Resident
Bekki	Wagner	local Resident
Bert	Ashley	F/V Marly
Brady	Hiner	F/V Raven
Brendan	Leake	local resident
Brendan	Ward	Kevin Hill Marine
Brian	Parsons	F/V Pacific Ram, F/V Northern Ram, F/V Arctic Ram
Bryan	Foss	F/V Patriot
Bud	Shoemake	Port of Toledo
Calvin	Johnson	local Resident
Cari	Brandberg	Chelsea Rose Seafood
Chandler	Borden	local Resident
Cheryl	Schrifer	Local Resident
Chris	Cooper	F/V Leslie Lee, F/V Perseverance, F/V Pacific, F/V Predator
Chris	Nicholson	local resident
Chris	Retherford	F/V Coast Pride
Christian	Assay	F/V Pacific Ram, F/V Northern Ram, F/V Arctic Ram
Christie	Frederic	local Resident
Clayton	Archambart	Fisherman
Clayton	Barnhart II	F/V Raven
Clint	Funderburg	F/V Widgeon, F/V Kraken
Cody	Chase	F/V Monde Uni
Connie	Kenney	Fisherman's Wife
Cory	Vance	Fisherman & local resident
Corey	Rock	F/V Kylee Lynn & Newport Resident
Craig	Cochran	Local Resident
Craig	Cross	F/V Muir Milach
Cris	Monroe	local Resident
Cyle	Barnhart	F/V B J Thomas
Dale	Dorsey	Newport resident
Dan	Cutter	Mayor of Waldport
Dan	Skague	local resident & Vessel Captain
Dave	Smith	F/V Lisa Melinda
David	Jincks	F/V Seadawn
David	Richcreek	F/V Raven
Dean	Fleck	Englune Marine

Debbie	Stillwell	Yaquina Bay Bookkeeping LLC
DeeAnne	Barnhart	local Resident
Dennis	McMannus	F/V Golden Pisces
Diana	Oldenburg	book keeper and fishing family
Don	Ashley	F/V Gold Rush
Elizabeth	Hall	Newport resident
Fran	Matthews	Discovery Tours
Fred	Yeck, JR	F/V Seadawn
Gary	Ripka	F/V Tabitha, F/V Western Breaze, F/V Redeemer
Gemma	Larson	local resident
Gene	Law	F/V Miss Law & F/V Lady Law
Geoff	Molfino	Living Pacific Seafood
Gidget	Manucci Ashley	F/V Marly
Ginny	Goblirsch	Oregon's Choice Gourmet Albacore
Glenn	Phillips	F/V Nichole Lynn
Heather	Mann	Local resident, Midwater Trawlers Cooperative
Jacob	Frederic	local resident
Jacob	Pearce	Kevin Hill Marine
Jamie	Nicholson	local resident
Jane	Margulis	Lincoln County Resident
Janine	Hecht	Newport resident
Jeff	Borden, Jr	local resident
Jeff	Chestnut	F/V Prospector
Jennifer	Johnson	local resident
Jerry	Bates	F/V Lisa Melinda
Jerry	Biddinger	Fisherman & newport resident
Jill	Dilloway	local resident
Jill	Phillips	F/V Nichole Lynn
Jim	Cline	Consultant, Retired Rogue Brewery
Jim	Seavers	F/V Seeker, FV Miss Sue
Joe	Conchecos	F/V Widgeon
John	Larson	local resident
John	Maier	Newport resident
John	Moody	Pacific Seafood Newport
John	Wagner	F/V Pacific
Judy	Dixon	local resident
Justin	Johnson	F/V Pegasus
Justin	Yager	F/V B J Thomas
Kaety	Jacobson	Newport resident & Lincoln County Commissioner
Kaino	Dixon	local resident
Kalli	Borden	local resident
Katie	Bighill	local resident
Karl	Kowalski	Local resident
Keith	Cochran	F/V Bay Islander
Kelley	Retherford	F/V Excalibur, F/V Winona J

Kelly	Ellis	local resident
Kelsey	Smith	F/V Excalibur
Kenny	Ripka	F/V Raven
Kent	Leslie	F/V Excalibur II
Kimberlee	Cochran	F/V New Life
Kristin	McQuaw	F/V Marathon
Kurt	Cochran	F/V Marathon
Leland	Oldenburg	fisherman & local resident
Lilian	Hall	Newport resident
Linda	Cochran	Local resident
Maria	McQuaw	CPA / Accountant
Maria	Rock	F/V Kylee Lynn and Newport resident
Mark	Flores	F/V Judy II
Mark	Kaminga	Kevin Hill Marine
Mary	Calister Oleman	local resident
Mary	Dorsey	Newport resident
Mary	Robeson	local resident
Marilyn	Greene	F/V Judy II
Michael	Hanson	Kevin Hill Marine
Michael	Retherford	fisherman & Newport resident
Michael	Retherford, Jr	fisherman & local resident
Michael	Thompson	fisherman
Michael	Van Blokland	Michael G. Van Blokland, CPA
Michele	Longo Eder	F/V Timmy Boy
Mike	Dilloway	local resident
Mike	Fitzpatrick	Fisherman
Mike	Retherford	F/V Excalibur
Mike	Storey	F/V Pegasus
Patti	Skague	local resident & fishing family
Phil	Sconce	Newport resident
Rachel	Allen	Local resident & business owner
Randy	Johnson	local resident & fisherman
Rebecca	Smith	local resident
Richart	Winner	local resident
Richard	Wood	F/V Delma Ann
Riley	Holt	F/V Mandy J
Robert	Eder	F/V Timmy Boy
Robert	Foley	CPA / Accountant
Robert	Hill	Kevin Hill Marine
Robert	Smith	F/V Raven
Rocky	Chirrick	Vessel captain & local resident
Rod	Cross	Mayor of Toledo
Sarah	Foultner	Property Owner
Sarah	Yager	Fisherman's Wife & local resident
Sharon	Biddinger	Newport resident & small business owner

Sharon	Jensen	local resident
Stacey	Maier	Newport resident
Stan	Schones	F/V Miss Berdie
Steve	Beard	F/V Golden Pisces
Steve	Beck	local resident, small business & former port commissioner
Steven	Hall	Newport resident
Stoian	Iankov	F/V Michelle Renee
Sue	Keesee	local resident
Taylor	Ashley	F/V Gold Rush
Ted	Gibson	F/V Lady Kaye
Tim	Mann	local resident
Todd	Whaley	F/V Miss Sarah, F/V Miss Emily
Tony	Kennedy	F/V Actic Ram & Newport resident
Tom	Ludwig	F/V Raven
Tom	Stam	F/V Miss Berdie
Tony	Applegate	F/V Anora Kay
Trish	Graham	local resident
Troy	Zigler	local resident & crew member
Wayne	Dudley	Newport resident