

I am an engineer and principal for my sustainability consulting and contracting business based in Coos Bay with 30 years of practical experience in the living landscapes and constructed environments of the south coast and state of Oregon. For the past 20 years my practice has increasingly focused on the energy sector within which transportation plays a critical role.

My experience as a mother, business owner and community servant of Oregon's south coast has shaped my perspective on the impacts of access to secure power and fuels due to our more frequent disruptions in service and supply than many other more populous and centralized communities. My engagement in the state and regional energy planning and regulatory proceedings, most recently as an Advisor to the State Energy Strategy as well as the NW Power Planning staff's Fuels Advisory Council, continues to deepen my understanding of our fragile, energy dependent status and accelerate the growing sense of urgency for Oregon to focus on internal energy and fuels generation, storage and infrastructure. It is a means to reduce our exposures to the market variability and supply disruption risks imbedded into our reliance on energy and fuel imports. It is an economic stabilizer and multiplier for host communities and fuel dependent industries such as our sustainable seafood fleet. It is an essential tool for rapidly improving air quality through reductions in greenhouse gas and other emissions.

Since 2020, I've enjoyed a deep dive into understanding the renewable resources available to Oregon and the PNW that can support the sustained and responsible production of our own clean fuels. Much of that work has drawn me north to Washington and places like my childhood home Port of Tacoma, which is supported and enabled by that state's legislative and executive focus on internally developing clean energy and fuel resources. As a result, it is actively engaged in strategic infrastructure planning for port, municipal and long-haul transportation decarbonization strategies that poise them for serving the community and industry with clean, secure, local power and fuels to increase local wealth, safety and security and improve air quality.

Oregon's south coast is blessed with renewable resources that, with deeper understanding and planning, can serve our own community transportation needs, strengthen our economic and social resilience and allow us to contemplate a significant and financially lucrative contribution to decarbonization of the entire Pacific maritime ecosystem. Locally sourced clean fuel could play a pivotal role in supporting the Port of Coos Bay's shore side operations and fueling services our local sustainable seafood fleets as well as the global maritime trade we support.

Thank you for passing legislation and authorizing funding for OSU's exciting work in understanding the potential for our state forests ladder fuels to serve as the feedstock for our own renewable diesel supply.

Recognizing the budget constraints we now face, I encourage this committee to support legislation designed to poise Oregon for external funding to better understand, plan for, design and build our own clean energy and fuels and the infrastructure to deploy them.

In 2023, funding to deepen our community's understanding, conduct feasibility and inform planning for renewable hydrogen at the Port of Coos Bay was submitted for inclusion in the PNW Hydrogen Hub grant application portfolio. The scope was designed to align early engagement and planning for potential integration into other Port transportation planning activities. Though awarded \$1B of federal funding, we were not included in the PNW Hub application portfolio as the timeline

for scaled hydrogen development did not meet the federally determined timeline. Since that time, the PNW Hub and USDOE have observed many policy, supply chain and fiscal developments that have resulted in additional project capacity within the PNW Hub and potential expansion of qualifying activities. It behooves the state and our taxpayers to set the table for forward thinking, early community understanding and strategic planning around our transportation fueling infrastructure.

As many of our legislators learned on the recent visit to Denmark, biomass can play a pivotal role in a region's clean economy. Biogas derived from seafood processing waste and forest ladder fuels could reduce waste stream burdens &/or wildfire risks. Federal focus and funding from EPA, USFS and USDOE to address these national issues is at unprecedented levels. OSU's work demonstrates the nexus between our natural resource management and transportation security.

These are two examples of time sensitive opportunities that I encourage you to contemplate supportive legislation for and exert your collective influence to poise Oregon for external funding for multi-cultural engagement, community informed planning, design, and responsible development of clean transportation fuels and infrastructure as the backbone of an energy secure, ecologically balanced & economically diversified south coast and state of Oregon.

Thank you for making the journey to our beautiful south coast. I welcome opportunities for further discussion.

Shannon Souza

Coos Bay, Oregon