

Submitter: Susannah Montague

On Behalf Of: JoElles Fish and Chips LLC

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB2909

We need the investment from HB2909 because it will make it possible for organizations such as OCVA and Yaquina Lab to continue to help local small seafood producers exist and find success. OCVA and the Yaquina Lab are essential for my small seafood business to not only survive but thrive. Without the affordable cold storage and resources they provide, I literally could not have even opened my business, let alone find the success that I have. I own a food cart that serves sustainably caught seafood to the working people of the central Oregon coast year round, not just to tourists during the summers. Because of the OCVA and Yaquina Lab, I am able to store my back stock of fish, which I would have no way of doing without them. This also gives me the opportunity to buy seafood from other local fishing families and support them as much as possible too. They have also provided us with invaluable mentorship on self marketing our catch and book keeping for my small business.

Another invaluable resource OCVA and the Yaquina Lab give our community is education to visitors and locals that help people better understand how well Oregon manages our fisheries. I am so proud to be a seafood producer in Oregon, where from legislation down to the fisherfolk on the docks, we all work together to keep our fisheries sustainable and our Ocean healthy. Investment from HB2909 will help us continue to do so.