



January 26, 2023

Chair Bynum and Members of the House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business,

On behalf of the Oregon Kelp Alliance, please accept this letter of support for HB2909 to fund seafood infrastructure along the Oregon coast.

The Oregon Kelp Alliance (ORKA) is a community-based organization representing diverse interests in kelp forest ecosystems, and includes commercial urchin divers, researchers, resource managers, conservationists, tribal members, tour guides, sport divers, mariculturists, chefs, and other community members working in support of healthy kelp forests. ORKA works to expand nearshore monitoring of kelp forest ecosystems, restore declining kelp forests, support recovery of key kelp forest species, and educate the public about the importance of these ecosystems. ORKA does this both in its own right and by supporting our various partner organizations.

HB2909 includes support for the Oregon Kelp Alliance's efforts to study and support the culture of edible seaweeds and purple sea urchins, which in some areas are overgrazing ecologically important kelp forests, leaving unproductive sea urchin barrens behind.

If I can provide further details regarding our support for this legislation, I can be reached via email [tom.calvanese@oregonkelpalliance.com](mailto:tom.calvanese@oregonkelpalliance.com), or phone 541.366.2501.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Calvanese", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tom Calvanese  
Oregon Kelp Alliance  
[oregonkelp.com](http://oregonkelp.com)