

Submitter: Rachelle Hacmac

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB2909

To the House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

In support of OCVA and HB2909:

My name is Rachelle Hacmac. I am a Portlander working with local Oregon restaurants and food brands. Through partnership with OCVA, I have helped create Winter Waters, an Oregon-based regenerative seafare series taking place in the month of February. We have over 30 chefs and bartenders in Portland and the Oregon coast participating in the series, using locally farmed seaweed and Oregon seafood in unique dining applications. The goal of the dining series is to draw attention to the blue economy, supply chain, and local seafood systems, in an effort to support local fishermen and farmers. Our non-profit partner is Oregon Kelp Alliance, who we will donate 10% of the proceeds to, in support of their mission to protect Oregon's native kelp forests.

Without the support of OCVA, this ambitious dining series would have been very difficult to pull off. We've received great value in the participation of the OCVA team in making connections with local fisherman, understanding essential infrastructure, research, marketing, and event planning. Their partnership is making a direct impact in the lives of local coastal fishermen and farmers. Together, we're raising awareness that 90 percent of the seafood sold on the Oregon Coast isn't local and this is causing an estimated \$252 million in economic leakage.

We need the investment from HB2909 because it will further the mission of Winter Waters and the blue economy in Oregon.

Thank you,
Rachelle Hacmac