



West Coast Seafood Processors Association
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April 13, 2023

Co-Chair Lew Frederick
Oregon State Senate
900 Court St. NE, S-419
Salem, Oregon 97301

Co-Chair Susan McLain
Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St. NE, H-493
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Mr. Frederick and Ms. McLain:

On behalf of the West Coast Seafood Processors Association (WCSPA), I am writing to request the Oregon Joint Committee on Ways and Means support full funding for two important state wide programs: 1) **Oregon Solutions**, and 2) **Oregon Consensus**, funded as part of the dispute resolution services allocation. As the Executive Director of WCSPA, I have experienced firsthand the benefit these two programs provide in helping to support community-based problem solving. WCSPA represents shoreside seafood processing companies and related businesses located in California, Oregon, and Washington. Our processors range from “mom and pop” operations to some of the largest seafood companies in the United States, employing thousands of workers in harvesting, processing, transporting, and distributing seafood across the country and throughout the world. Oregon’s seafood industry generates billions of dollars in sales and is a critical source of year-round employment in many economically-depressed coastal communities.

WCSPA has engaged with Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus regarding two issues critical for Oregon’s fishing communities. First, Oregon Solutions has been working with WCSPA to identify a pathway for improved wastewater treatment for seafood processing. Second, Oregon Consensus is working with our industry to navigate concerns about how to provide opportunities for offshore wind development that also sustains a globally-critical fishery. My experience has led me to conclude there are few groups like Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus who can somehow hold the interest of such diverse community interests in way that helps all of us achieve our goals.

Oregon Solutions is conducting an assessment for a new Byproduct Recovery Center located in Coos Bay/Charleston. This facility will treat wastewater from four seafood processors in a way that improves the water quality in the Bay and allows seafood processors to expand and keep providing a backbone for our sustainable fisheries on the South Coast.

Oregon Consensus is conducting an assessment around community benefit agreements for offshore wind. Those conversations have proven an attention to listening to community needs, and an expertise in advising on process design that helps all of us.

Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus programs provide very distinct and critical services to communities across the State in implementing sustainable solutions and cost effective resolutions to contentious issues. I am thankful the legislature recognizes the significance of these programs, and I hope they will continue to be funded and supported.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori L. Steele". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "S".

Lori Steele
Executive Director

CC: Senator Michael Dembrow
Senator Suzanne Weber
Representative Tracy Cramer
Representative Emily McIntire
Representative Hoa Nguyen
Representative Ricki Ruiz