



April 12, 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:

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 CEO of the Port of Coos Bay, I have experienced firsthand the benefit these programs provide in helping to support community-based problem solving.

The Port wants to expand its ability to grow and sustain fishing as an employer and critical part of life here on the South Coast. Oregon Solutions has been working with me and my partners to identify a pathway for improved wastewater treatment for seafood processing, and Oregon Consensus is working with me to navigate how to provide opportunities for offshore wind development that also sustains a globally-critical fishery. There are few people like Oregon Solutions and Oregon Consensus who can somehow hold the interest of such a diverse community interest in a way that helps all of us achieve our goals.

Oregon Solutions is conducting an assessment for a new Byproduct Recovery Facility in Coos Bay. The Facility will treat wastewater from four seafood processors in a way that A) improves the water quality in the Bay, and B) allows the processors to expand and keep providing a backbone to the sustainable fishery 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 hope they will continue to be supported.

Sincerely,

John Burns
CEO, Port of Coos Bay

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

