



March 14, 2025

RE: Support for HB2969

Dear Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chair Diehl, Vice-Chair Isadore and House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business and Trade Members:

My name is Roi Wurgaft, and I urge you to vote YES on HB 2969 to support Oregon's fishing industry, drive innovation, and maximize the value of our marine resources.

I am the owner of Wurgaft Consulting & Development LLC, a company specializing in advanced extraction and ingredient development located in Reedsport, Oregon. My team has worked on capturing proteins from fish harvest waste and other marine byproducts, applying R&D-driven solutions to maximize their value. With over 24 years of experience designing and operationalizing extraction facilities globally, I understand the economic potential of 100% Fish Utilization and the opportunities it presents for Oregon's coastal economy.

The Iceland Ocean Cluster has shown that with targeted research and coordination, a single fish—typically sold for \$12—can generate up to \$4,700 when fully utilized for high-value products like collagen, peptides, fish leather, and nutraceuticals. Oregon is well-positioned to replicate this success.

Currently, much of Oregon's seafood waste is discarded or used for low-value applications like pet food and fertilizer. We are losing millions of dollars in potential economic value. HB 2969 provides the framework to capture that value, ensuring that nothing goes to waste while creating new jobs and businesses in our coastal communities.

This initiative will not change the way Oregon fishers operate. They will continue to harvest seafood and deliver it to processors. The difference is that coastal entrepreneurs and small businesses will have the opportunity to transform waste into high-value products such as marine-based cosmetics, nutraceuticals, and medical applications—industries with significant growth potential.

HB 2969 is a smart investment in economic resilience, job creation, and sustainability. It strengthens Oregon's fishing industry, reduces waste, and creates new revenue streams—all while benefiting our coastal economy.

I strongly urge you to vote YES on HB 2969.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roi Wurgaft', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Roi Wurgaft, CEO

Wurgaft Consulting & Development LLC.
350 Greenwood Ave. Reedsport OR 97467
Tel: +1-503-484-3733
Email: roi.wurgaft@pgextract.us