

**Central Coast Food Web**  
**3814 Yaquina Bay Road**  
**Newport, OR 97365**

**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:**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the importance of 100 Percent Fish. I urge you to vote YES on HB 2969 to make sure we are reducing fish waste while creating new product lines simultaneously.

The approach of using the entire fish is tried and true. The Iceland Ocean Cluster has shown that with thoughtful research and development and coordination it's possible to increase the value of a single \$18 fish to a value of \$4,700 by producing non-food products.

This project here in Oregon has moved into the Research and Development phase right now, testing different seafood material for things like lipids, peptides, collagen, proteins, and other characteristics. HB 2969 would provide the framework to apply this model in Oregon, benefiting our coastal communities and the state's economy.

While seafood waste from many of Oregon's seafood processors tends to become pet food, natural fertilizer, and fish meal for farmed fish, etc., was from many others is still discarded. Overall, Oregon still discards much seafood waste and gets a very low value for the waste that is captured and repurposed. The aim of 100% Fish Utilization is to capture the highest possible value, and throw nothing away.

Oregon Fishers would still go out, harvest seafood and deliver to processors. But then other entrepreneurs could also employ coastal Oregonians to gather the fish waste and produce high-quality products such as fish leather, cosmetics, Nutraceuticals, medicines and more.

Central Coast Food Web is all in on reaching the goal of 100% fish utilization. Everything we do, as humans, creates waste streams, often of useful byproducts. It is time we consider what we use and what we do not. As tasty as our seafood is, enriching lives, businesses, with what is "left over", and promoting healing through bandaging that is more conducive to human use and need, are all a part of this story. This may seem to be a lofty goal, and it is. But more importantly it is necessary and achievable, with your support.



This bill supports the fishing industry in multiple new ways through generating revenue and create jobs by using materials that otherwise would be thrown away, and reducing environmental impacts and regulatory burdens.

It's an investment in innovation on the Oregon Coast that has big potential to pay off in the long run in terms of new businesses, jobs and the tax revenues that come from those. It just makes sense. Please vote YES on HB 2969.

Sincerely,

Jim King

Executive Director

Central Coast Food Web