

**Port of Astoria
422 Gateway Avenue, Suite 100
Astoria, OR 97103**

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:

Commercial fishing has been an economic staple in Astoria, Clatsop County and the State of Oregon for many decades. The two seafood processors operating on Port of Astoria property (Bornstein Seafoods and Da Yang Seafoods) bring ±\$140 million of annual economic impact to the region by processing more than 100 million pounds of seafood annually.

Responsible utilization of our scarce natural resources is imperative to economic and environmental success. The Iceland Ocean Cluster has demonstrated that thoughtful research, development and coordination with disparate industries can increase the value of a single fish by over *thirty thousand percent*.

Oregon still discards much seafood waste and obtains minimal value for the waste that is captured and repurposed. The aim of 100% Fish Utilization is to capture the highest possible value and reduce waste to zero. HB 2969 is an investment in Oregon Coast innovation that has huge upside potential.

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

The Port of Astoria's mission is to drive economy in an environmentally responsible manner. I am, therefore, pleased to provide testimony on the importance of 100 Percent Fish and HB 2969. I encourage you to vote YES on HB 2969 that will further Oregon's efforts to responsibly manage its resources.

Sincerely,

Matt McGrath
Deputy Director
Port of Astoria