



West Coast Seafood Processors Association
P.O. Box 1127
Astoria, OR 97103
(503) 227-5076

March 13, 2025

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

On behalf of the West Coast Seafood Processors Association (WCSPA), I am writing in support of House Bill 2969.

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 West Coast, 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.

HB 2969 has the potential to reduce fish waste from our processors and create new product lines, as the Iceland Ocean Cluster has proven. That will not happen without research and this bill could help get that research started.

This bill supports the seafood industry in innovative new ways, although we acknowledge that additional jobs and revenue streams may be years away. However, starting this research now could lead to developing markets for seafood waste products different from those already established (pet food, fish meal, compost, fish oil, etc.). Our members remain interested in innovation and, especially, in ways to reduce fish waste while creating new revenue streams to benefit our companies and coastal communities.

With those ideas in mind, we support HB 2969.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori L. Steele". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lori Steele
Executive Director