

Submitter: Kristen Penner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2969

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 utilization and the importance of innovation in this work. As a former commercial fisherman in Oregon, I can attest that this is a highly urgent matter.

I urge you to vote YES on HB 2969 to make sure we are reducing fish waste while creating new value simultaneously.

The approach of using the entire fish is tried and true – to some extent, in Oregon, while in other parts of the world we are seeing what is truly possible.

Through thoughtful, intentional, and collaborative work, the Iceland Ocean Cluster has shown that it's possible to increase the value of a single \$12 fish to a value of \$4,700. The aim of 100% Fish Utilization is to capture the highest possible value, and throw nothing away. HB 2969 would provide the framework to apply this model in Oregon, benefiting our coastal communities and the state's economy.

While Oregon's seafood processors work hard to ensure seafood "waste" is used, it tends to become pet food, natural fertilizer, and fish meal for farmed fish, etc. However, these products hold relatively low value compared to the biomedical products such as skin grafts and bandages, fish skin leather, cosmetics, nutraceuticals, medicines and more that are attainable using the resources locked inside the side-streams of seafood production.

This bill supports the fishing industry in multiple new ways through generating revenue and creating jobs by using materials that otherwise would be thrown away, and reducing environmental impacts and regulatory burdens. This is a unique and timely opportunity to support R&D that can jumpstart entrepreneurs and employ coastal Oregonians to gather the fish waste and produce high-quality products.

The opportunity is vast. A circular economy is the future. Please vote YES on HB 2969.

Sincerely,  
Kristen Penner  
North Coast Industries LLC