



February 2, 2026

TO: House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, Trade
FR: Duke Shepard, Senior Policy Director
RE: Support of HB 4086

OBI is a statewide association representing businesses from a wide variety of industries and from each of Oregon's 36 counties. In addition to being the statewide chamber of commerce, OBI is the state affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Retail Federation. Our 1,600 member companies, more than 75% of which are small businesses, employ more than 250,000 Oregonians.

OBI is once again in enthusiastic support of industrial symbiosis policy and of the roadmap and pilot project approach proposed in this legislation. Every business OBI works with seeks to reduce waste, lower energy and utility costs, and use materials more efficiently. Industrial symbiosis is a way to achieve these goals by creating a circular flow that turns one company's waste into another's input, while improving both environmental and economic outcomes.

For many OBI members - especially in manufacturing, agriculture, and food processing - this is already standard practice; it just hasn't always had a name. It's simply sensible business. This bill formalizes industrial symbiosis by providing a framework that helps businesses connect, adopt emerging technologies, and form new markets and partnerships.

OBI is also pleased to support efforts to advance a 100% Fish strategy for Oregon and investment in the Oregon Coast Visitors Association. Oregon is underachieving in capitalizing on its blue economy resources, and Iceland has demonstrated what's possible with focus, intention, and innovation that prioritize business growth by capitalizing on well-understood strengths. A key component of increasing our state competitiveness is reducing barriers and making investments in our foundational strengths and maximizing them to the fullest extent possible as 100% Fish aims to do.

Finally, the updates to the Regionally Significant Industrial Sites statute is a prudent step to better meet the aims of the program.

OBI supports HB 4086.