



February 4, 2026

Dear Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chair Diehl, Vice-Chair Isadore, and members of the House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business and Trade,

I submit these comments on behalf of the Oregon Trawl Commission (OTC) to express our support for the 100 Percent Fish concept, which is part of HB 4086.

OTC is a fishermen-funded state commodity commission that represents Oregon trawl fishermen who harvest Pacific whiting, non-whiting groundfish (rockfish, sole/flatfish, sablefish, etc.), and Oregon pink shrimp. This industry delivers millions of pounds of healthy, sustainably harvested seafood to Oregon's coastal communities.

Oregon produces substantial quantities of seafood across many species. The most valuable portion of fish is typically the fillets or meat in shrimp and crab. Other parts not used for human consumption—such as skins, bones, carcasses, and heads—are sent to secondary processing and used as ingredients in pet food, gardening products, fish meal, etc. While these uses help reduce waste, they do not represent high-value opportunities.

There are, however, more innovative and considerably more lucrative ways to utilize seafood byproducts. Examples include biodegradable packaging foam and bioplastic food films made from shellfish shells; hemostatic (blood-stopping) agents derived from chitosan found in shrimp shells for medical and military applications; collagen-based cosmetics and beverages; fish skin leather; and many others. [The Iceland Ocean Cluster](#) is a great example of how seafood-producing regions can significantly increase the value of their resources.

OTC supports the development of a seafood byproduct utilization industry in Oregon. We believe it would increase the overall value of the fishery resource, create new jobs and business opportunities, provide investment opportunities for fishermen, and generate new economic activity in Oregon's coastal communities.

With that, OTC supports HB 4086. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Yelena Nowak
Director, Oregon Trawl Commission