

Testimony in Support of HB 4086

Debbie Radie – Boardman Foods

House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

February 2, 2026

Chair Nguyen, Vice Chairs Isadore and Skarlatos, and members of the Committee—my name is Debbie Radie, and I am the Chief Quality and Stewardship Officer at Boardman Foods.

For more than three decades, the Port of Morrow has been a cornerstone of Oregon’s economic success. It stands as one of the state’s strongest economic engines and consistently maintains the third-highest average wages in Oregon. That success comes from innovation, strong partnerships, and long-term vision.

Today, you have an opportunity to build on that success by supporting this legislation to advance Industrial Symbiosis. The funding in this bill will support the **Port of Morrow Industrial Symbiosis Consortium**, which is laying the groundwork to strengthen our regional economy and attract new investment.

As part of its early work, the consortium has identified several essential needs:

- Conducting **resource mapping** to understand the materials, byproducts, and infrastructure currently available in the region.
- Identifying **key stakeholders** who can help unlock new collaborative opportunities.
- Obtaining the **technical resources required to put these ideas—and the best opportunities for success—into action.**

These foundational steps will allow businesses to work together to reduce waste, lower costs, increase efficiency, and create entirely new economic and job opportunities.

I had the privilege of seeing the power of this approach firsthand in Denmark. There, targeted technical assistance and coordinated resource planning have allowed companies to collaborate in remarkable ways—turning waste streams into inputs, sharing energy, and building new industries that simply would not have been possible otherwise. The economic and environmental benefits were clear, and Oregon is well-positioned to achieve the same success.

With this legislation, **Oregon can establish itself as a leader in Industrial Symbiosis**, attracting new business opportunities while strengthening the industries that already support our rural communities.

This means more jobs, more innovation, and long-term economic resilience.

I urge your support for this bill so we can continue building a stronger and more competitive future for Oregon.