

Submitter: Sarah Ward

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1525

To the Senate Committee On Energy and Environment,

I urge you to support Senate Bill 1525. I am a resident of Hebo, Oregon who works in our regional food system and who also supports and benefits from the foods our blue economy produces in my personal life. Oregon's coastal communities already have the ecosystem and local fishers required to drastically reduce residents', tourists', and restaurants' reliability on imported seafood. This reduction is key to furthering economic and resource resilience. SB 1525 is vital to increasing and sustaining Oregon's blue economy and achieving a significant increase of local seafood consumption, in part due to both the robust representation the bill dictates, and the ability it establishes for Oregon Ocean Science Trust to create and maintain a 501(c)(3) to further support Oregon's blue economy. While supporting this bill, we all must note that the specific inclusion of Indigenous voices is missing from this bill. Input from Indigenous Peoples is crucial, and must be included in future bills.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warmly,

Sarah Ward