

Submitter: Megan Dompe

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1525

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment,

My name is Megan Dompe, and I am writing in support of Senate Bill 1525.

Oregon's blue foods economy is a vital part of our agricultural system, coastal communities, and long term economic resilience. This sector is rooted in stewardship and sustainable practices of marine ecosystems, working waters, and the people whose livelihoods depend on them. Oregon is fortunate to have strong collaborative networks, including the Oregon Ocean Cluster, that bring together organizations working across the blue economy.

However, there remains a need for a formal, coordinated structure that can build capacity, create supportive programming, develop partnerships with aligned global blue foods organizations, address workforce recruitment needs, and represent the collective interests of the blue foods sector. A blue foods task force would accomplish this and serve as a collective voice to speak on behalf of the sector and provide development of needed programming across Oregon's 363 miles of coastline and its collective interest.

There is a clear need for a coordinated body that would help align efforts, elevate shared priorities, and ensure blue foods have a stronger and more equitable seat at the table within Oregon's broader agricultural economy.

Blue foods are a vital part of Oregon's agricultural economy. Task force development through SB 1525 provides a thoughtful framework to complement existing collaborations while strengthening the sector's long-term viability.

For these reasons, I urge your support of SB 1525.

Thank you for your consideration,

Megan Dompe

Sustainable Agriculture and Coastal Economic Development Advocate, Lane County