

RE: Support for SB 1525

Chair Sollman, Vice-Chair Brock Smith, and members of the Committee:

As the Executive Director of the South Coast Development Council, I work in economic development every day on Oregon's South Coast. I am writing to express my strong support for SB 1525 and to urge the Committee on Energy and Environment to move this bill forward.

The South Coast has long depended on natural-resource and industrial sectors that are now facing structural change, workforce transitions, and increasing exposure to other external risks. As the state focuses more on economic development, we are hopeful that the coast will not be left behind. This bill is a critical component in showing us that this will not happen. The Blue Economy presents numerous opportunities to create home-grown companies and attract new industries to the coast. We work hard to find and support businesses that are in line with Oregon's values, and this bill will help better define what the Blue Economy needs to look like here.

As an economic development professional, I see firsthand how certainty, coordination, and long-term planning translates into real-world outcomes: expanded tax base, workforce stability, and communities that are better positioned to weather economic and environmental change. SB 1525 provides a framework that supports these outcomes while advancing Oregon's broader objectives.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing work on behalf of all Oregonians. I respectfully urge your support for SB 1525.

Sincerely,

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