Submitter: Maggie Michaels

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Energy and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1525

Dear Legislators,
Thank you for considering my testimony is support of SB 1525.

This bill will define and create a roadmap for developing the blue economy in Oregon.

SB 1525 will provide the science and information Oregon needs to support a healthy ocean and vibrant coastal economies. Investing in the Blue Economy will strengthen coastal communities and their economies. It also will help empower our region's communities to be major contributors in the statewide economic prosperity we seek.

Multiple partners are already collaborating to develop certain sectors of Oregon's Blue Economy through the following efforts:
-Working to create coastal infrastructure to keep more Oregon seafood local. Real economic value is developed through the supply chain, where dollars are multiplied and jobs are created.
-Pursuing 100 Percent Fish initiatives to utilize fish waste from food processing for creating additional value-added food and non-food products. This will build new kinds of products produced in Oregon, such as pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, fish leather, collagens, scientific and medical products and much more.
-Developing and promoting top-notch visitor experience on the Oregon Coast.

For the long term, sustainable of success of Oregon's blue economy we need to continue these activities and advance them strategically. SB 1593 will create a taskforce that includes a variety of business interests, including tourism, fisheries, blue economy business investors and many more to define what this means and study what other states and nations are doing successfully regarding the blue economy. The group will identify existing initiatives to spot gaps and overlaps, and create strategies to address them. This work can lead to a Blue Economy Roadmap that charts a robust, inclusive, and exciting journey forward for Oregon and Oregonians.

Again, I appreciate your consideration of SB 1593.
Best,
Maggie Michaels