



February 9th, 2026

House Committee on Climate, Energy, and the Environment
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Honorable Members of House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment,

Pacific Seafood is a third-generation, family-owned seafood company that proudly provides fresh, sustainable, and high-quality products of the USA to customers in all 50 states as well as exports to more than 50 countries around the world. We've grown from our humble beginnings in 1941 to become one of the largest seafood companies in the U.S., proudly employing more than 3,500 team members across eight states, including Alaska, Oregon, Washington, and Texas. We proudly have over 1,500 of those team members and seven locations in Oregon.

On behalf of our seafood company, we respectfully express our support for HB 4030 and urge the Legislature to clarify that raw meat, poultry, and seafood packaging is exempt from the Recycling Modernization Act's Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program.

Packaging used for raw protein products is fundamentally different from other consumer packaging. It is governed by stringent federal food safety laws and relies on FDA-approved materials specifically designed to control pathogens, maintain shelf life, and protect consumer health. These materials are engineered first and foremost for food safety and contamination prevention.

We recognize that the purpose of EPR is to increase recycling effectiveness, reduce environmental impacts, and align producer responsibility with system performance. Because this packaging is subject to rigorous public health management at the federal level, we support differentiated treatment under the EPR program that acknowledges and respects the program's intent and recycling objectives.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has acknowledged that raw protein packaging:

- Is not accepted in Oregon's uniform statewide recycling collection list;
- Enters the commingled recycling system only as contamination; and
- Poses health and safety risks to workers and recycling operations if mishandled.

DEQ has further recognized that a single contaminated item can compromise an entire load of recyclable material, causing otherwise high-value recyclables to be diverted to landfill. Therefore, including raw protein packaging in the EPR program would cause the system to erode, rather than advance Oregon's contamination reduction and recycling goals.



In its current form, the program conflicts with contamination reduction objectives and existing federal regulatory frameworks, while also heightening safety risks. HB 4030 offers a needed opportunity to clarify the program and exempt this critical packaging accordingly.

Exempting raw meat, poultry, and seafood packaging would:

- Reduce contamination in Oregon's recycling system;
- Protect workers and public health; and
- Preserve high-value recyclable material streams

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Legislature to support an exemption for raw meat, poultry, and seafood packaging under HB 4030. Doing so will allow Oregon's recycling system to focus on materials that genuinely improve environmental outcomes while preserving food safety and public health.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued leadership of effective, practical recycling policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bella Johnson".

Bella Johnson

Pacific Seafood Government Affairs