

Joint Ways and Means Committee  
Testimony of Wayne Belmont, Legal Aid Services of Oregon  
April 14, 2015, Lincoln City

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Co-chairs Devlin and Buckley, Members of the Committee, my name is Wayne Belmont and I live in Lincoln County. I am County Counsel for Lincoln County but am not testifying today in that capacity; I submit this testimony in my capacity as a member of the Board of Directors of Legal Aid Services of Oregon. As a long-time board member of both Legal Aid Services of Oregon and the Oregon Law Center, I have seen firsthand the vital role that legal aid plays in ensuring fairness in our justice system and protecting vulnerable Oregonians. I testify to urge you to support increased funding for legal aid.

As you know, legal aid offices throughout our state play a critical role providing access to justice and a level playing field for low income Oregonians. Our clients need legal aid's help keeping themselves and their children safe from domestic violence, protecting their homes, getting food, finding medical care and supporting their families. The need is great, and the need is growing as the effects of the great recession continue. Currently about 850,000 people in Oregon are eligible for legal aid with only 90 legal aid lawyers statewide to serve them all. At the same time that client need was increasing due to the recession, decreased revenue forced legal aid to eliminate 20% of the staff positions statewide and close two offices.

We have a legal aid office in Newport that serves hundreds of low-income clients each year here in Lincoln County. Because legal aid offices have sufficient revenue to meet only about 15% of the legal needs of our clients, our Lincoln County office, like all legal aid offices, routinely conducts community needs assessments to determine the highest priority legal needs. We survey low-income clients, judges, private attorneys, nonprofit organizations and other community partners to determine the most serious legal needs in the communities that we serve and we then target our services to address the most serious legal needs. Here in Lincoln County, we also have a local advisory council that consists of local attorneys and community representatives that advises our local office on legal needs in the community and how best to meet those needs. I also serve on that council and hear firsthand about those unmet needs.

Like other legal aid offices, we have found that the highest priority legal needs in our community include domestic violence and housing issues. We have also found that protecting the elderly and disabled is a high priority in our community. To respond to this need, our local legal aid office helps to protect elderly and disabled clients from abuse, helps with problems relating to nursing homes and assisted living facilities, and helps elders and people with disabilities on other issues to protect their privacy, dignity and independence.

Legal aid offices also work to prevent legal problems. For example, our local legal aid office serves on an Elder and Disabled Multidisciplinary Committee with law enforcement, the district attorney's office, state services for Seniors and People with Disabilities and other agencies to try to address elder abuse and suspected elder abuse through a community response. We also work with judges and law enforcement to proactively address domestic violence issues.

Legal aid is doing vital work to protect families, the elderly and disabled and other vulnerable members of our communities. I urge your support for additional funding for legal aid so that they can do more of this vital work statewide to meet critical legal needs in our communities. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to testify today.

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My name is Jay Roelof - Chair of Outreach - **Lincoln City Congregational Church**.

Our church is very active in **volunteering for** and **financially supporting** the **survival and education of homeless K-12 kids** in our community.

### **SO WHY AM I HERE?**

Since I believe that a rising tide lifts all boats, I am here to ask that the Oregon State K-12 Education Budget **be increased from \$7.235 billion to at least \$7.5 billion**.

I use as the source for my comments to you, information that I received from Colt Gill, **the President of the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators**

**They draft the educational goals** of all the K-12 schools in the state of Oregon.

He is also: **A commissioner on the Oregon State Quality Education Commission**, which **estimates the cost of meeting those state-wide educational goals**.

Mr. Colt says:

- **Oregon's K-12 schools received about 45% of the state budget** 12 years ago.
- Over those years it dropped and **then rose again to 39.7%**,

**BUT, the current approved state budget allocates only 39.1 %:**

- that amount is supposed to **not only support our increased existing costs**,
- but it **must also support, for the first time**, a very worthwhile decision to expand Kindergarten **from half day to full day**.

**I THINK THAT we should at least continue to allocate 39.7% of our State K-12 education budget**

- **which would increase the State K-12 budget to about \$7.5 billion**
- **and that STILL leaves the school system with a HUGE challenge!**

**Right now Oregon ranks 49th in graduation rates and class size across the country!**

**We also have one of the shortest school years in the country!**

*For example,*

- *If you are a child growing up in Portland, Oregon,*
- and your cousin is growing up right across the river in Vancouver, Washington,*
- *by the time they graduate from high school,*
- the one in Vancouver has had about a year and a half more school than a kid who grew up in Portland.*
- *So they're coming out with more skills and a larger knowledge base than Oregon graduates,*

**I think that says even a \$7.5 billion State Budget is in no way an "excessive amount!"**

I personally grew up with a home life that wasn't very good. School was always my sanctuary, a place I could go to be happy and get away. Today I represent my school, Taft High 7-12, as ASB President, a position I take very seriously. When I heard about the drop in funding for our school, my heart sunk. All my hard work to make these student's, as well as my, high school experience could now be being torn to shreds.

One major issue in this funding drop is that we may not be able to continue with middle school sports. I spoke to one of my peers who had played middle school sports year round, she spoke with a heavy heart towards the issue at hand, "Well sports have always been important to me, and they help to hold me accountable with my everyday life. They provide a positive outlet for everyone involved in them, and create bonds between players and coaches that will forever be remembered. Playing sports has helped me and others get through a lot of tough times, and I honestly don't know what I would do without them." Every year our school is forced to fundraise for middle school sports, that's with the extra \$300,000,000 we look forward to every year being given to the state. How then can we continue with providing these sports when we are now forced to somehow get the money to continue the other activities as well?

At my school, classes can range anywhere between ten to forty kids. Back when I was a Freshman, my algebra 2 class was over fire code by three kids. I struggled in that class, and so did many of my peers. Plenty of us had to stay after school, come before school, and go to interventions just to pass, and even then it was difficult. This year I am in Trigonometry, a class with only sixteen students, I currently have a B+. Though the class is harder, we each have more one-on-one time with our teacher, providing a better understanding of the subject. Hiring more teachers will help to reduce the class sizes, but how can we do that if there isn't enough money? Along with that is the fact that we only have one teacher for choir and band, two very big programs in our school whom compete. A normal school would have a teacher for each. Why don't we? Budget cuts.

It may seem like it, but what I am asking you for is not a lot. If we build up strong educations now we will all bring in more revenue later. How can we do that though when so many activities, classes, and all around educations are at stake? By cutting our funds you say we aren't worth the extra dollars, that our education isn't of enough importance. So why should we even go to school at all? You see, when you lose interest so do we.

Now this issue doesn't really pertain to me. I am a junior in highschool, I can easily do without that money for one more year, but what about all those kids in Oregon who still have years upon years ahead of them? In the end this is your decision, and I wholeheartedly urge you to pick the right one. Thank you.

County: Lincoln.  
Topic: Cultural Trust Funding, SB 441

My name is Niki Price, and I am the executive director of this facility, the Lincoln City Cultural Center. We are a nonprofit organization which operates this facility in partnership with the Lincoln City Urban Renewal Agency. On behalf of all of us – our board of directors, staff, donors and volunteers, thank you for bringing this great civic event to our auditorium. We are proud to host this event, and hope that you will come back next legislative session as well.

I am also the co-chair of the Lincoln County Cultural Coalition, which as you probably know is the local arm of the Oregon Cultural Trust. We distribute cultural trust funds through small grants that make a big difference for our rural nonprofits. We buy instruments for children's band, art classes for seniors, sculpture for public gardens, and other great projects. We can't do it without the Oregon cultural tax credit, or the staff of the trust office itself.

SB 441 will allow that staff to allocate more money for coalition partner grants, and give them a little more staffing to handle their successful program. I urge you to give SB 441 safe passage, and to continue your support of arts donation vehicles like this one.

Thank you.

Good Evening, Co-Chairs and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

My Name is Chris Chandler, and I'm the chair of the Oregon Coast Community College Board of Education.

I am here in support of a restoration budget of at least \$550 million for the Community College Support Fund and additional investment so community colleges like Oregon Coast Community College can offer more career and technical programs.

Oregon Coast Community College matters to Lincoln County because we offer a complete Registered Nursing Program, training local residents for family-wage nursing careers at our two hospitals, various assisted living facilities, and physicians' offices in this county. We have a large senior population, and having highly-trained nurses to serve seniors, visitors and all ~~local~~ <sup>of our</sup> residents is a priority. And OCCC's success rate for our nursing <sup>↑</sup> program is well-documented: last year, ~~92~~ <sup>96</sup> percent of our <sup>many beyond</sup> graduating class of nurses passed their state board exams on their first try!

Oregon Coast Community College also has a stellar record with our Small Business Development Center. Our SBDC regularly wins awards for helping local businesses stay profitable, <sup>or</sup> get profitable, and become more effective and efficient. From increasing business via social media to shoebox <sup>making beyond</sup> accounting, small businesses in Lincoln County have a tremendous resource in our SBDC.

As state government relies heavily on income taxes to pay for the many, many important programs and services Oregonians need and want, I believe that direct investment in entities that increase income tax revenue should be a very high priority for your budget-setting. As I think I've illustrated, community colleges are at the forefront of helping



local residents earn well-paying jobs, helping businesses here be more profitable and pay more income taxes, and as we all know, helping our residents realize their career and college dreams.

Please, support a restoration budget of at least \$550 million for the Community College Support Fund, and additional investment so we can help you with increased revenue for the many many initiatives and programs that need state revenue. *support.*

Thank you.

Birgitte Ryslinge, Oregon Coast Community College  
[birgitte.ryslinge@occc.cc.or.us](mailto:birgitte.ryslinge@occc.cc.or.us) 541 867 8530  
April 14, 2015

I am Dr. Birgitte Ryslinge, President of Oregon Coast Community College, which serves Lincoln County. While there is so much to be praised about Lincoln County, we face the challenges of many rural communities: shortage of living wage jobs, lower levels of educational attainment, and poverty. In a community such as this, the importance of a strong community college cannot be overstated.

We provide the first two years of a bachelor's degree and exemplary career technical programs of unique importance to the community. Almost 100 OCCC students have earned their Nursing degrees and are helping to meet the healthcare needs of Lincoln County and beyond. Our Aquarium Science Technician program is the only one of its kind in the United States.

We do a remarkable job of supporting high school students, who comprise about 10% of our enrollment. Lincoln County has a painful 71% high school completion rate, and less 50% go on to college, which translated to less than 150 students from the class of 2014. In that same year, 126 Lincoln County Juniors and Seniors were already college students at Oregon Coast, with a remarkable 89% success rate, and no student debt through our Expanded Options program.

And yet, with all this good work, there is so much more we would like to do with and for Lincoln County. Oregon Coast Community College has struggled over the past years to meet community needs for education and workforce development with the resources available through state funding.

Employment sector data and industry feedback in Lincoln County shows a need for programs in business, marine economy, tourism, early childhood education, and STEM. We also want to better serve the increasing diversity of Lincoln County, and do more to raise awareness of the connections between college, careers and personal and community development.

I urge you to fund community colleges at the \$550 million dollar support level. This level of funding would enable our College to begin to address the unmet need for education and workforce development in Lincoln County.

I would also like to take this opportunity to lend my voice in support of funding for the OSU Marine Studies Initiative. As someone deeply concerned with the value and availability of quality higher education, I am very supportive of the OSU Marine Studies Initiative and its commitment to partner with coastal community colleges to deliver content, intern opportunities and more direct access from 2 year to four-year programs. Thank you for your attention and support.

## **To Joint Ways and Means Budget Roadshow April 14, 2015**

Thank you for this opportunity to address you all today on a subject close to my heart.

My name is Rebecca Austen and I am the public health director for Lincoln County. I am here to support additional investments in public health to help our communities combat the #1 cause of death in Lincoln County— tobacco use.

In 2013 Lincoln County alone spent 32.1 million dollars on medical care for smoking-related illnesses, 170 people died from tobacco and 28.1 million was lost in productivity due to tobacco-related deaths.

If we want to make data-informed decisions in Oregon—this would be a good place to start.

Since health transformation was adopted and the Triple Aim was embraced, remember the triple aim will:

- increase the quality of health care
- improve the health of all oregonians
- and reduce costs

Public Health has been sitting on the sidelines, waiting to get into the game. That time has come. We cannot reduce the cost of health care by rationing care, which is the traditional method. But the most cost effective is prevention. the clearest way to cut costs and improve health is to invest in public health. This is our mission: to prevent disease.

In this region, Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties, are doing exactly that. Along with the IHN-CCO we are investing Tobacco Master Settlement dollars into:

- Making policy changes to further protect the public, such as no smoking in public housing,
- Strategizing ways to counter the retail marketing plans by Big Tobacco to sell to kids
- Align clinical approaches for adults to quit smoking with special emphasis on reducing smoking among pregnant women.

We need you to continue to encourage these regional relationships with CCOs across Oregon and continue to dedicate TMS money to local efforts for tobacco prevention.

It is time for the State to invest in PH - Oregon is 46th in the US for funding PH, I know we can do better.

## **ODFW LICENSE FEE INCREASES 2015**

### **2015 Oregon Ways and Means Committee Hearing, Lincoln City**

My name is Linda Buell. My family has owned Garibaldi Charters for 15 years now, and we have just turned the business over to our next generation, my son-in-law and daughter and we need them to be successful, so please help us out here.

**Loss of Charter boats** on the Oregon Coast in the 2000's was from 100 certified charter boats, now down to 55. Twenty eight charter boats were docked in Garibaldi alone during my father-in-laws time (1980's -1990's) as a charter boat owner & Captain for 20 yrs. In the last few years, our Port has lost the six charter boats leaving only 5 certified Charter Boats and 1 or 2 six passenger, uncertified boats in our Port. These boats all sold daily licenses and provided income for the ODFW and local jobs. How many more will we lose if you keep charging our tourists higher fees?

**Oregon's Daily License Fees are not comparable** to California or WA. CA is \$15.12 for a daily fishing license & WA is \$20.10. Both states include Shellfish Licenses. We understand the need to raise our resident fees for multiple days of fishing, but to penalize our tourists so much for just one day of fishing is unconscionable. Add to that a 65% increase in shellfish license fees in the next few years, and on top of that, an ocean endorsement fee is inviting a possible disaster to one of the most popular sports on the Oregon Coast, Ocean Charter Fishing.

**We would recommend that when adding programs** to ODFW's already heavy workloads, the Legislature needs to add funding priorities from the General Fund or elsewhere before these type of programs are initiated, not afterwards at the expense of our different fishing sectors and certainly not at the expense of our tourist businesses.

**A more reasonable approach** would be to "compete" with CA and WA for our tourists by having, if not better rates for fishing in Oregon, at least matching rates. Instead of raising the shellfish license fees, include them in the Daily Angling License Rates now being proposed as CA & WA do. If we cannot match these rates somehow, we will lose much of our out of state business. Everyone loves Oregon's beautiful ocean and the idea of the freedom of the sea's. Taking that away from Oregonian's fishermen, boaters and Tourists alike through an "ocean endorsement" (fee) tax is not right. Which ocean users will need "endorsements" next? Shore side

My name is Jay Roelof - Chair of Outreach - **Lincoln City Congregational Church.**

Our church is very active in **volunteering for** and **financially supporting** the **survival and education of homeless K-12 kids** in our community.

WHY ?  
SO I AM HERE ~~TO TALK ABOUT:~~

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I WANT TO SEE  
The Oregon State K-12 Education Budget - \$7.235 billion for K-12 schools

increased from to \$7.5 billion

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**For example,**

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and your cousin is growing up right across the river in Vancouver, Washington,  
by the time they graduate from high school,

**the one in Vancouver has had about a year and a half more school than a kid who  
grew up in Portland.**

So they're coming out with more skills and a larger knowledge base than Oregon graduates,

..... I think that says even a \$7.5 billion State Budget is in no way an "excessive amount!"

Testimony OSU MSI  
Joint Ways & Means Committee  
Oregon State Legislature

Lincoln City, Oregon - April 14, 2015

My name is John Lavrakas, a small business owner in Newport, and a member and past president of the Yaquina Bay Economic Foundation. This is a non-profit group representing leaders of the Yaquina Bay region, mayors and city managers, the county commission, the hospital, arts, marine science, schools, tourism, banking, and all aspects of the economy that contribute to the health and vitality of our region. Recently the group voted to commit \$25K of its own funds (which is most of the balance in its account!) to support the OSU Marine Studies Initiative. Why did it do this? What were its members thinking?

It was clear from the beginning that this initiative was going to have a huge impact on our region, the state, and on the nation, -- scientifically, economically, and socially. The initiative will provide students with hands-on experience in all aspects of marine studies, - in science, engineering, services. The local ports and businesses, even the arts are ready to welcome these students as interns and participants in our community. The MSI will draw students from throughout Oregon and around the country to come to the Oregon coast to get their hands wet, go onto boats, spend time in the water, be part of the working waterfront in their marine studies. This in turn will revitalize our coastal K-12 education and community colleges, and build a practical understanding of the ocean, the estuaries, and coastal margins.

For this to be a success, each must do its part. Our region is already making its commitment, and we ask that the state do the same, and approve the budgeted \$25M in capital bonding request to help make the OSU Marine Studies Initiative happen.

John Lavrakas  
Advanced Research Corporation  
605 SW Hurbert St, Suite 102  
Newport OR 97365  
jlavrakas@oregonarc.com

## Sean Edmunds Barnacle Bill's

Hello everyone, my name is Sean Edmunds and I am from Barnacle Bill's Seafood Market. Our family owned and operated seafood market has been in business since 1949 selling some of the Oregon coast's finest seafood products. One of the many products we are most known for is our Smoked Salmon. People come from all sides of the state, across the country and even from other neighboring countries to buy some of our delicious smoked salmon. I wanted everyone to be able to enjoy smoked salmon the way we do. My final year in college I decided that I would make it a goal to try and change the way people viewed smoked products, specifically smoked salmon. I had a rocky game plan and a goal, but I didn't have a clear path on how to get there. Then I heard about the Lincoln City SBDC through my father-in-law. I quickly scheduled a meeting and was paired with Craig Grant. As far as I'm concerned, this man is a business genius. Craig gave me exactly what I needed, the information and tools to help me create a structured plan on how to reach my goal. I met with Craig on many different occasions over the next year to evaluate my progress. As of September 2014 we have completed our new 5,000 sq.ft. processing facility. Our smoked products are currently carried by seven locations in the greater Portland area and we will be rolling out some very new partnerships here in the near future. The addition of our new processing facility and the increased business to our retail location has required us to already hire 2 new full time employees and we are looking to higher another full time and part time employee. If we continue our growth as anticipated we will add as many as 9 additional full time jobs in the next 3-4 years. Simply having a program such as the SBDC available to me helped our business grow significantly which has resulted in a valuable impact to our local economy. I believe that funding for the SBDC is a sound investment in businesses like mine in Lincoln County. Please keep Barnacle Bills and other family businesses in Lincoln County in mind when you're considering how you'll fund the Oregon Small Business Development Center network this biennium. Thank you for your time.



TO: JOINT WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE  
FROM: KEVIN GREENWOOD, GENERAL MANAGER, PORT OF NEWPORT  
DATE: APRIL 14, 2015  
RE: JOINT WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE HEARING STATEMENT

CO-CHAIR DEVLIN, CO-CHAIR BUCKLEY, AND MEMBERS OF THE JOINT  
WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE WELCOME TO LINCOLN COUNTY.

THE PORT JUST RECENTLY COMPLETED THE DREDGING AND  
MITIGATION WORK FOR THE PORT'S 21-MILLION DOLLAR REMEDIATION OF ITS  
INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL. AS YOU KNOW HANJIN AND HAPAG-LLOYD HAVE  
PULLED OUT OF THE PORT OF PORTLAND AND AS A RESULT I HAVE FIELDDED  
INQUIRES FROM AG PRODUCERS IN THE MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY AND  
SOUTHERN OREGON LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEAR-SHORE  
BARGE AND CONTAINER SHIPPING FROM NEWPORT TO TACOMA OR SAN  
FRANCISCO.

THE PORT WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE FINANCING TO COMPLETE  
CONSTRUCTION OF A LAYDOWN/DISTRIBUTION FACILITY IN NEWPORT THAT  
COULD ADEQUATELY SUPPORT THESE OREGON PRODUCTS TO MARKET.

AS PART OF THIS EFFORT, I CAN'T STREE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE  
LEGISLATURE PASSING A COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION PACKAGE  
INCLUDING SUPPORT FOR CONNECT OREGON SIX FUNDING AT ONE-  
HUNDRED-MILLION-DOLLARS, BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT FUNDING AT  
TWENTY-MILLION DOLLARS, REPLENISHMENT OF THE SPECIAL WORKS FUND  
AT TWENTY-EIGHT-MILLION DOLLARS AND THE PASSAGE OF HOUSE BILL 2435  
FOR RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AT TEN MILLION DOLLARS. THE COMPETITIVE

BASED NATURE OF THESE FUNDS ENSURES THAT THE STATE'S TOP PRIORITY SHOVEL READY PROJECTS CAN BE COMPLETED GENERATING MUCH NEEDED JOBS IN RURAL OREGON. LET'S NOT LET POLITICS GET IN THE WAY OF PROPERLY FUNDING NEEDED TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS THAT WILL BE A BENEFIT FOR ALL OREGONIANS.

IN ADDITION, THE PORT OF NEWPORT SUPPORTS TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS IN STATE MATCHING FUNDS TO COMPLETE THE FINANCING OF THE HATFIELD MARINE SCIENCE CENTER. THIS EXPANSION WILL ADD MUCH-NEEDED ECONOMIC GROWTH TO THE COASTAL ECONOMY INCLUDING HIGHER WAGE POSITIONS. NEWPORT IS QUICKLY BECOMING THE PREMIER MARINE SCIENCE AND RESEARCH FACILITY ON THE PACIFIC COAST AND WE HOPE THAT THE STATE LEGISLATURE WILL SUPPORT THE SIGNIFICANT PRIVATE INVESTMENT THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN PUT IN TO THIS WORLD CLASS OPPORTUNITY.

AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND VISITING LINCOLN COUNTY.

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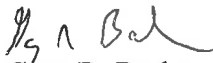
Gary Barber  
PO Box 2589  
Waldport, OR 97394  
April 14, 2015

To the Members of the Joint Ways and Means Committee of the Oregon Legislative Assembly:

My name is Gary Barber and I am submitting this letter and testimony concerning the Value the Work, Raise the Wage campaign. It is difficult for me to consider that many of the programs for individuals with disabilities are supported by staff who do not receive an adequate wage. The value of the contributions of these Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) cannot be argued to the individuals that they serve or their families. Day programs, employment, and housing supports for people with developmental disabilities are vital to the health and well-being of the individuals served, the community, and family members. Low wages for the staff of these programs do not only have a negative impact on the staff in question, but also on families, government resources, and the local community.

Society takes many things for granted and there is an expectation that our most vulnerable populations have reliable and consistent staffing for support. Given the low pay rate available to DSP's, turnover is high as staff often leave to seek other employment with higher wages. Individuals with disabilities have the right to quality supports and the staff providing these supports deserve a wage more appropriate to the level of supports they provide. The current shortage of DSP's and lack of interest in pursuing employment as a DSP for job applicants will significantly limit the ability of community disability programs to provide inclusive lives in the community for the individuals served throughout the state. Please support increased funding for DHS in order to increase funding for community partners and the Value the Work, Raise the Wage campaign.

Sincerely,

  
Gary R. Barber

Oregon Legislative Budget Committee:

*& ways and means*

My name is Tamara Mautner, and my husband and I own a charter fishing business in Garibaldi, Oregon. My family has been directly involved in the charter business for over 15 years, and members of my family are also currently involved in numerous advisory committees and councils regarding fishing regulations. I am writing this letter to address the issue of the proposed fee increases to the angling and shellfish licenses here in Oregon. Every angler that takes one of our fishing trips is required to have a fishing license, and many purchase shellfish licenses as well, thereby making the charter fishing industry one of the largest sellers of daily permits in the state. With over 2,500 anglers fishing from our two boats last summer, we spent over \$26,000 on Pre-Paid daily fishing licenses. With three charter businesses just in Garibaldi, and somewhere in the neighborhood of 50 charter boats in all of Oregon, we represent quite a large portion of the Oregon daily fishing license users. I urge you to carefully consider the impact this will make on the overall number of tourists who travel to the Oregon Coast, as well as the many coastal communities who will suffer greatly if this proposal is approved.

Let me first say that as a business owner, I understand costs of doing business, as well as the costs involved in managing a department as large as the ODFW. I understand that price increases are inevitable, and I think most people understand when prices increase slightly every few years. However, I also know that a large increase in fees such as this will be enough to stop many people from coming to Oregon to fish, crab or clam. I believe they will turn elsewhere, or simply opt out of fishing all-together. Under the proposed fee increase schedule, the cost of Oregon licenses required for a basic bottom ½ day fishing/crabbing excursion for a non-resident guest will rise from just over \$28 (by far the highest on the coast already) to an alarming \$43 in 2020. This will constitute 40% of the cost of our actual fishing trip. Currently, the cost of Washington daily fishing licenses *including shellfish* are \$11.35 (resident) and \$20.15 (non-resident). California is the cheapest at only \$15.12 for a daily combined angling and shellfish license. Incidentally, California imposed increases on their daily license fees every year between 2010 and 2014. *The total increase over those four years was \$1.00.*

The proposed fee schedule for the non-resident shellfish license represents an increase of 65% over 6 years (averaging 10.8% a year). I understand that some increases cannot be avoided, but I think a sudden rate increase of this magnitude will result in a backfire – the very thing the ODFW is trying to accomplish (producing more revenue) will actually have the opposite effect.

I'd like to reference a quote from Guy Norman (WDFW Southwest Regional Director) as published in a recent news article. He addresses Washington's similar struggles regarding the increased cost of managing fish and wildlife, and although he specifically mentions hunting rather than fishing, I think we can learn something from his projection. He states, *"We think that by selectively reducing certain fees we can increase the number of hunters, and thereby increase revenue."* I cannot stress the importance of this mindset enough. If we keep fishing and shellfish license fees reasonable (especially to first timers and beginners like we see so often in the charter industry), we will build a sturdy consumer base for the product. More people fishing equals more license revenue. There is no long-term benefit from pricing out our future customers just to fill a short term budget gap.

We coastal communities depend on our out-of-state visitors to drive our economy. If they are continually bombarded by increased fees in Oregon, they will go elsewhere. They do have a choice.

This not only affects charter fishermen, but also affects hotels, restaurants, markets, gas stations, seafood processors, and virtually every other business in our tourism-driven economies. This proposed fee increase should be inspected very carefully before implementation, treating it as you would treat an executive decision in any business seeking additional revenue. Our prices are already higher than the “competition” (Washington, California, and yes, even Idaho). If our prices continue to rise much higher than our “competitors,” we will lose business. With up to 41% of our fishermen coming from another state, neither the ODFW nor the coastal communities of Oregon can afford to risk losing the business of our out-of-state visitors.

I hear from hundreds of people a day during the peak season, and have heard numerous complaints of the cost of fishing licenses in Oregon. One recent encounter stands out in my mind. A man from Idaho came through my door to inquire about a bottom fishing trip. After hearing the price and nodding his head, he inquired about fishing and shellfish licenses. He told me that because of the added license fees, his family wouldn’t be able to afford it this year, and that they would try to “stay home next year to save up” for a trip the following year. I can only imagine how many people will do the same – decide to find something closer to home that is less expensive – if this fee schedule is implemented.

I would like to propose a smaller fee increase on the daily angling and shellfish licenses and/or a combination option for shellfish and angling license that brings us more in line with our neighboring states. I believe this would offer reasonably priced options that won’t devastate the coastal economy, and incentive for beginners and visitors to get excited about fishing while still providing revenue to the ODFW.

Thank you for considering these recommendations.

Tamara Mautner

Ty Mautner

Owners Garibaldi Charters

**Oregon Joint Committee on Ways & Means**

Testimony • 4.14.15

Dave Price • PO Box 936 • Lincoln City, OR 97367

Chairs and members of the joint committee on Ways and Means, my name is Dave Price, and I'm the director of the Small Business Development Center at Oregon Coast Community College.

On behalf of State Director Mark Gregory and my colleagues at 19 centers across Oregon, I thank you for your support of the SBDC Network.

Tonight, time permitting, you'll hear from some of the clients we've served this year. With just over two years under my belt at the center, I'm still a relative newcomer to the SBDC, but then I've got another two years of SBDC experience – as a client, with the business my wife and I launched, built and eventually sold right here on the Oregon Coast – a business that will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday next month, thanks in no small measure to the support we received as clients of the SBDC.

Since January first of this year, our small center has already delivered free business advising to more than 80 clients, and has helped them secure \$1.2 million in capital infusion and create or retain 33 jobs – these aren't small numbers anywhere, but they're huge in Lincoln County.

As one of the smallest centers in Oregon, but one charged with serving the varied needs of a county reliant on industries like tourism and fishing, not to mention its budding marine technology sector, we depend on a stable and supportive host in Oregon Coast Community College. Restoring the \$550 million Community College Support Fund will go a long way to ensuring the long-term viability of the SBDC and the clients we serve.

On behalf of those clients, and the classroom full of would-be business owners who can't be here tonight because they are down the street meeting as we speak in our business start-ups class, I thank you for your visit, for your support of the Oregon SBDC Network, and of Oregon Coast Community college.

# **FISHERMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE for TILLAMOOK F.A.C.T.**

**PO Box 52, Tillamook, OR 97141**

**503-965-2238**

Oregon State Ways and Means Committee,

The Fisherman's Advisory Committee of Tillamook County (FACT) exists to provide a strong, unified voice from the fishing community to the Tillamook Board of Commissioners, TIDE, researchers, developers and others concerning ocean related issues. We are comprised of 22 Commercial, Charter and Recreational representatives and their alternates. All are appointed by the Tillamook County Commisioners.

FACT is concerned about the large increases in fishing license fees that the ODFW has proposed over the next six years for both resident and non-resident fishermen. These fee increases range from 30% for an annual resident fishing license up to as high as a 65% increase for a three day shell fish license for our nonresident guests. (Resident shellfish license will increase 43%.) While we understand that the ODFW is in great need of more funding due to a miscalculation in their previous budget and the increased costs of doing business, we feel that these extreme fee increases are unfair to our fishermen and to our economy-driving nonresident tourists.

FACT's charter representatives are very worried that they will lose a significant number of out of state customers, especially when those customers start comparing the expense of an Oregon daily fishing or three day shellfish license to Washington's or California's license charges. In addition, there is a new license concept called an "ocean endorsement" but no information about yet another fee and what real benefits to fishermen would come from it. User fees like this seem to be a convenient way to avoid raising taxes, but, unlike a tax, tourists and even residents can just decide to not go fishing or hunting here in Oregon where the fees on everything- visiting a park, camping, hotels, boat ramps and fishing and hunting have gotten so high. These fee increases hurt everyone, endanger our coastal economy and destroy jobs.

We would like to request that the legislative budget committee seek other means to increase funding for the ODFW. The fishing and hunting fee increases would be more reasonable if done every five or six years as they have been in the past. Lottery funds, grants from the many tourism related private and state entities, requests for specific programs to private foundations and environmental groups are all good ways to begin. All Oregonians benefit from being able to visit and recreate on our wonderful coast, rivers and marine environment so a greater and more reasonable amount from the general fund to help the ODFW should also be considered.

Respectively, Fisherman's Advisory Committee for Tillamook County  
Co-Chairs John Holloway, Linda Buell & Craig Wenrick

**Testimony of Dr. Robert K. Cowen to the  
Oregon State Ways and Means Committee  
*Marine Studies Initiative Building* – Capital Budget  
April 14, 2015**

My name is Robert Cowen. I am the Director of Oregon State University's Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport Oregon.

The Hatfield Marine Science Center is 50 years old this year. During the time of its existence, it has become a central resource for K-12 and higher education, an innovator of scientific and technical advances relevant to the coastal marine enterprise, and a key contributor to the coastal economy. OSU and HMSC have built extremely strong bonds with the coastal community from Astoria to Brookings.

Building on the strong foundation that is today's Hatfield Marine Science Center, and Oregon State University's internationally renown marine programs, OSU has launched the *Marine Studies Initiative* with the explicit goal of expanding OSU's marine education, research and outreach mission along the entire coast and throughout the state of Oregon.

I am speaking before you today to express my strongest support of the OSU request for \$25M in capital funding through State Bonding for the Marine Studies Building in Newport. The expansion at Newport will enable us to significantly increase access to rural students, build an internationally distinctive program that increases the output of a well-trained workforce, and provide global leadership in addressing sustainable utilization of our marine resources.

I would also like to take this opportunity to stress that Community colleges are vital along the coast, particularly in areas with limited educational opportunities. Within the *Marine Studies Initiative*, there are a multiplicity of marine and ocean sector opportunities we would like to explore with the coastal community colleges, building on such successes as the OCCC's Aquarium Science Program. But we need a strong community college system. So, we also urge you to fund community colleges at the \$550 million dollar support level, and to consider additional targeted funding for CTE program development.





# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE OF LINCOLN COUNTY

*Strengthening Lincoln County's economy. Attracting and supporting primary jobs.*

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## TESTIMONY TO WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF HATFIELD MARINE SCIENCE CENTER TO OREGON'S CENTRAL COAST REGION

April 13, 2015

By: Caroline Bauman, Executive Director, Economic Development Alliance of  
Lincoln County

Dear Committee members:

The Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County is a nonprofit organization that seeks to strengthen and diversify our local economy. We are here on behalf of the OSU Marine Science Initiative Building, and in support of state bonding for its construction.

The Ten Year Update to Lincoln County's Economy in 2014 identified Marine Science as a key industry, one that we want to build. A partnership between our organization, OSU, and the Port of Newport has been working since 2008 on an economic development initiative called Yaquina Bay Ocean Observing Initiative that takes in all public, academic and private industry players.

This campus fits our region and boosts the initiative as an economic driver with good jobs. Our goal is to build a cluster of service and supply industries, along with start-up entrepreneurs in commercial applications of marine technology.

This is a long-term goal. We are presently working on housing and transportation issues to serve this campus. There is good coordination with Oregon Coast Community College and with the school district, aquarium and OMSI and their investments in marine tourism and learning.

This is how you build a cluster. Thank you.



## PACIFIC SHRIMP COMPANY

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April 14, 2015

Dear,

Chairman Representative Peter Buckley, Senator Richard Devlin and others on the House Ways and Means Committee;

My name is Dave Wright and I am the General Manager of Pacific Shrimp in Newport, Oregon and Bandon Pacific in Charleston, Oregon. Pacific Shrimp processed over 60 million pounds last year and we are part of Pacific Seafood, Oregon's largest seafood company. Pacific Shrimp processes Dungeness crab, pink shrimp, ground fish, troll caught salmon, halibut, albacore tuna and pacific whiting.

I am offering testimony in support for three state investments supporting Oregon fishing, aquaculture and seafood industries.

The first is the Oregon State University Marine Studies Initiative building at the Hatfield Marine Science Center. It is critical for our seafood industry to substantially increase the level of marine and fisheries research while providing quality trained individuals in marine technology, sustainable fisheries, aquaculture and resource management. Pacific Seafood looks forward to working with Oregon State University in supporting programs and internships to enhance marine and seafood professions.

The second investment is Senate Bill 657, which is critical to restore state wide budget which includes aquaculture experiment station and extension service. This research and education is extremely important in supporting the Oregon seafood industry. Pacific Seafood and others in the industry have employed some of the scientists and technicians which came from the Marine Experiment Stations. The ability to support research for new technologies and value added seafood products is essential for our seafood industry. Seafood is the healthiest protein on the planet.

The third investment is Senate Bill 2209, creating the Oregon Shellfish Initiative. Aquaculture and shellfish are very important to Pacific Seafood and this bill will support research and monitoring to improve oyster breeding, address the effects of ocean acidifications and create a task force to stream line the regulatory process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of these investments.

Sincerely,



Dave Wright  
General Manager

Subject: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Budget/Fee Increase

Date: March 28, 2015

The ANWS believes this is a trend that can be reversed but it will ultimately require that an exhaustive agency review gets underway that recognizes the breadth of responsibilities, unfunded mandates, opportunities for growth, funding opportunities and pulls together the diverse complex of stakeholders in an effort to support a vision that makes this a fully functioning agency capable of meeting today's demands.

Left to status quo, issues like poaching which has an untold ripple effect that affects hunting and fishing opportunity, will remain largely unchallenged. Law enforcement as is currently funded and structured is unable to keep up with the press of illegal activity that's occurring daily across the state. Those losses are incalculable and may warrant a strategy of adopting a preventive approach with a greater presence in the field.

In our conversations with anglers young and old, we heard time and again the proposed fee increases were just too much. Fairly, enthusiasts may not be happy with the fee increase but they'll pay it. It's the people that fish a few times a year that we stand to lose.

We hope legislators take a close look at the proposed increases. Over a six year period for example, anglers who fish for salmon and steelhead currently pay \$59.50/yr. By 2020 that fee will be \$90. If that angler fishes in the Columbia Basin for salmon and steelhead add another \$9.75 fee for a "Columbia River Endorsement". That's over a 50% increase! For status quo.

Sports anglers feel strongly they are already paying their fair share. In addition to license dollars that are one of the largest funding contributions to the agency are federal monies, some, in fact a significant portion of those federal funds, come from the sale of fishing equipment that's taxed federally and allocated to the states based on the number of licenses they sell. The same is true for hunters.

Again, the ANWS has supported several previous fee increases but, given the magnitude of the increases proposed and the lack of any long term solution, is opposed to this increase.

The ANWS is hopeful the legislature will press to begin some kind of process to deliver long term remedies for this funding crisis. Fish and wildlife in some form or fashion touches nearly every Oregonian. Our fish and wildlife resources are important attributes that should receive more attention than they do with less than a penny out of every tax dollar supporting this agency with such a broad and important mission.

Next, we ask the legislature to work with the Governor's office to address the lack of commission representation for sports anglers. In this case, the sportfishing community is truly facing "taxation without representation". It's easy to push for these fee increases when you're not the one paying the bill. We know that proper representation would push for solutions that end this funding crisis and grow sportfishing opportunity. We know increased sportfishing opportunities will grow license sales, support the conservation mission, improve agency funding and stimulate economic growth while providing important social benefits statewide. This is long overdue and demands immediate attention.

The Association of Northwest Steelheaders stands ready to meet with legislative, agency and commission leaders and the Governor's office to discuss and find some kind of solution that will move us to support these short term fixes and fee increases to a long term problem.

Thank you for your attention to this request and for your service to Oregon.

Subject: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Budget/Fee Increase

Date: March 28, 2015

past couple of years. Oregon is home to a number of boat builders, located in rural communities like White City, Roseburg and Central Point.

Unbeknownst to most legislators is the fact that sportfishing is big business that reaches rural Oregon in ways few other industries can.

The Association of Northwest Steelheaders believes that Oregon, with a fully-funded ODFW, proper representation on the Fish and Wildlife Commission and with a collaborated effort from ODFW, stakeholders, the legislature and commission can be one of the preeminent sportfishing destinations in the country.

Getting there will be no easy task but the benefits to fish and wildlife conservation, economic development and our state's land and water resources should be compelling enough to warrant consideration of a long term funding solution now.

So why not a fee increase?

Stakeholders, in this case, sports anglers, are being asked to pay more and get the same or probably less than what they already have. Worse, the direction we're headed will no doubt be the same in 2020 when the next fee increase is proposed for the 2021 legislature.

ODFW economists acknowledge with this fee increase that as many as 10,000 anglers will not renew their licenses. ODFW asserts that those revenue declines will be offset by the fee hike. Still, it's 10,000 fewer licenses sold, which we believe will be higher given a new study cited later that was just released this past month. ODFW representatives say that many of these lapsed anglers can be earned back through better fishing, increased marketing and more and diverse opportunities but how do you fund those initiatives when you're losing license sales, people, and you are only able to fund on the most minimal levels? Additionally, even aggressive efforts to recruit lapsed anglers have yielded fractional increases, hardly enough to gain what's been lost. It's a serious and legitimate concern that we might try to fund ODFW with less people purchasing licenses which is the primary and largest funding source for the agency.

A recent study released March 15, 2015 by the California Sportfishing League confirms this by showing the effect of license cost to declining license sales. The declines are precipitous. License sales have declined 55% from 1980 to 2014 while the state's population has increased by 60% over the same period. The study cites license costs as a core reason for the decline.

More importantly with these declines in license sales are the concurrent declines in revenues while agency responsibilities and duties have increased.

ODFW through their most recent budgeting process commented that reasons for declines in fishing nationally were due primarily to time constraints and work related issues. There are states seeing increases in participation and license sales, those states have vibrant marketing programs, like Minnesota, that keep the public informed of opportunities.

ODFW in their budget said, "hunting and fishing participation in Oregon is at the lowest levels in the last 30 years." While fishing license sales are flat, participation is down. Right now, fishing and hunting participation is in a tail spin which exacerbates the funding problem.

Subject: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Budget/Fee Increase

Date: March 28, 2015

Furthermore, the legislature should be aware of the fact that Oregon's Fish and Wildlife Commission is the only commission in Oregon that lacks representation of its key stakeholder. The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission does not have a sportfishing representative in its ranks. Again, this has been a longstanding issue and a large problem. How can the Commission that oversees the operation of this agency, sets policy and makes decisions on behalf of the various stakeholder groups lack representation of the agency's largest stakeholder group?

The ANWS understands the Oregon Legislature does not have authority in making commission appointments and only has authority in commission selection through the Senate Rules Committee. We hope the Senate Rules Committee would be clear with the Governor's office how important this stakeholder representation is to their committee in selecting and approving new commissioners.

In reviewing the proposed ODFW budget a *minimalist approach* has been taken in nearly every category. There has been for some time wholesale reductions in law enforcement, hatchery production, administration, information and education, marketing, field staff and management. Over the past 40 years the duties and responsibilities of this agency have grown immeasurably with endangered species mandates, development, predation concerns, habitat needs, water quality and a long list of other challenging and diverse issues.

ODFW has, in most cases, done all it can to embrace these needs.

There are at least dozens, for example, of unfunded legislative mandates that when passed seemed relatively inconsequential. These mandates may have been the result of some kind of an agreement that was struck to address a specific need that provides little, if any benefit to anglers and hunters...yet they are the ones paying the freight. Over the years, those mandates grew from a "few" to "several" and now begs the question of how do we keep those mandates funded within ODFW or should they be eliminated or transferred to another agency?

These "unfunded mandates" are well known throughout the agency but largely include a range of monitoring responsibilities, wildlife watching and predator control and hazing among many other things. And while the ANWS has no issue with these unfunded mandates, the truth is, the money has to come from somewhere and it has, in a kind of rob-Peter-to-pay-Paul scenario.

The fundamental problem with the proposed fee increase and budget is that it is a road to nowhere. It just keeps the wheels on the bus...that's about it...and barely maintains status quo.

The ANWS believes that by fully-funding ODFW the social, economic and conservation gains will be enormous.

Based on a 2011 Southwick and Associates study, an economic and marketing research firm that has a long history in providing detailed analysis in fish and wildlife economics for the federal government and nearly every state in the country, identified that sportfishing in Oregon generated \$680,636,132 in direct retail sales and when the "Total Multiplier" was applied that included all the associated economic benefits related to lodging, restaurants, non-fishing related retail activity, fuel and others, that number escalated to \$1,172,481,577 annually! In addition to these economics is the direct employment of 11,043 Oregonians, state and local tax revenues of \$72,381,359 and 638,000 adult anglers.

A 1996 Sea Grant Study commissioned by the Oregon State Marine Board placed the economic impact of boating in Oregon at nearly \$1 billion a year and cited that approximately 70% of the use was for fishing related activities. Fairly, those numbers dipped precipitously following the recession of 2009 but have rebounded significantly this



**Association of Northwest Steelheaders**  
**6641 SE Lake Road, Milwaukie, OR 97222-2161**  
**503-653-4176; [www.nwsteelheaders.org](http://www.nwsteelheaders.org)**

Contact: Bob Rees, [executivedirector@anws.org](mailto:executivedirector@anws.org), 503-812-9036

Subject: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Budget/Fee Increase

Date: March 28, 2015

The Association of Northwest Steelheaders opposes the fee increase proposed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Association of Northwest Steelheaders is one of the region's most respected sportfishing organizations because of its hands-on approach to member involvement in improving sportfishing across the region. We work in streams, at hatcheries and with our elected officials to enhance the sport and fish we love. Founded in 1960, the Association of Northwest Steelheaders is also one of the oldest sportfishing organizations in the region.

After nearly a year of discussion, analysis and feedback from the membership and executive board of the Association of Northwest Steelheaders (ANWS), we ask the Oregon Legislature to stand with us in opposing the steep fee increases proposed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

This is not a position or request we take lightly or a decision that was made in haste.

In fact, ANWS has supported previous fee increases and, proposed new fees that have been implemented over the last decade. The ANWS recognizes the need for the proposed fee increase, acknowledges the good work of the agency and is deeply grateful for strides that have been made in defending hatchery-related lawsuits and expanding Columbia Basin fishing opportunities. We have enjoyed historic returns of salmon and steelhead back to the Columbia thanks in large part to the efforts of ODFW.

The Association of the Northwest Steelheaders has enjoyed a long and productive relationship with ODFW. We consider this agency to be a friend of the Association and are hopeful our opposition leads to new funding sources and better representation so this agency can be fully-funded and essential stakeholder groups properly represented. In doing so, we believe ODFW can deliver results that will have far-reaching economic and social benefits across this State.

This is not a new problem.

18 years ago an Oregon State University study cited these challenges when they commented, "Six years of revenue shortfalls, unfunded mandates and personnel reductions (loss of 200 jobs) have limited the department's ability to support regulatory decision making, coordinate activities with other departments, provide baseline services and take on additional workload." Adding the six years that's indicated in the comment makes this a known issue for more than 25 years.

The ANWS respectfully asks the Oregon Legislature to first, recognize that fish and wildlife in Oregon are of a high enough social and economic value to fully fund the agency tasked with managing these resources. And second, to take the steps necessary now to start a process intent on resolving this funding issue with a long term, sustainable solution.

*Anglers dedicated to enhancing and protecting fisheries and their habitats for today and the future.  
The Association of Northwest Steelheaders is a 501(C)3 corporation: 91-1031100*