



## Written Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 259

- Senate Bill 259 continues the process of fixing two big problems.
  - First, Oregon doesn't formally recognize the existence of a maritime sector.
  - Second, Oregon Workforce Investment doesn't recognize workers that report to zip codes out of state, which is common among the maritime sector workforce.
- By comparison, Washington State does both of those things.
  - The maritime sector in Washington State contributes more than \$15 billion in gross business income, and directly employs over 57,000 people. Including indirect and induced impacts, the maritime sector in Washington State is responsible for 146,000 jobs in the state and \$30 billion in economic activity.
  - Oregon's maritime sector is likely comparable to Washington, if not even bigger. Yet we don't recognize or fully support workforce development in that key economic sector of our economy that produces tens of thousands of family wage jobs and careers.
- In 2017, the Oregon Coastal Caucus, on behalf of the Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association (OCZMA) introduced Senate Bill 867 to begin the process of addressing this big deficiency.
- Senate Bill 867 passed unanimously, and created a task force to begin the process of studying and identifying the maritime sector in Oregon. The Task Force is staffed by the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC), so there is little to no fiscal impact on the state.
- However, for a number of reasons, the Task Force was unable to complete its vital work before the deadline set in Senate Bill 867. The Task Force continues its work, but we need to extend the legislative authorization.
- Senate Bill 259 does just that. It continues the good work of the prior bill in addressing the ongoing serious deficiency of workforce development in the Oregon maritime sector.
- Please support Senate Bill 259.

*Prepared by Rob Bovett, Legal Counsel and Policy Manager for OCZMA*