



February 14, 2019

Re: Senate Bill 595

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this letter in support of the passage of Senate Bill 595. I am the General Manger for our Bay City oyster processing, farming and retail facility. We currently employ 85 people in our operations. We offer our team members family medical insurance as well as retirement packages. Mostly all of our employees after a training period earn above minimum wage.

Our ability to continue to grow is hampered by the ability to hire and attract additional employees. The largest barrier that we constantly face is to find affordable housing for potential employees. Senate Bill 595 will give our community development program the ability to purchase land and attract developers to build the necessary housing. Using part of the transient lodging tax would be a means of funding the purchase of the land.

Housing is the largest barrier we face in regards to being able to use the available recruiting tools that we have to grow our businesses. This is not only an issue in Tillamook county but all up and down the coast at all of our facilities.

We encourage your support of Senate Bill 595.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Whitey Forsman".

Whitey Forsman

Pacific Shellfish

General Manger of Production