

**Spoken testimony before the House Committee on Economic Development, March 27th, 2019
In favor of House Bill 2366 for \$1.6M in funds for Redevelopment at the Port of Port Orford
submitted by Tom Calvanese, President, Port Commission, for the Port of Port Orford**

Chairman Lively and members of the Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to address you regarding HB 2366, and to testify in favor of its passage. I am joined today by our Port Manager, Steve Courtier.

Port Orford, as many of you know, is a rural coastal community located on the remote and rugged South Coast. This town of 1,200 people relies heavily on our Port as its main economic driver. Port economic activity, including commercial fishing and related activities contribute 30% of our local economy. As you can see from the attached chart, the landed value of seafood at the Port of Port Orford has continuously increased over the past 40 years, with the 4 highest values occurring in the past 10 years. Three new commercial fishing vessels have been built and launched in just the last few years, another sign of the health of the fleet and of its growth and potential.

As you know, Curry County is economically disadvantaged - in 2018, the unemployment rate was 6.5%. But due to the healthy nearby reefs, and our hard working fleet, our Port is highly productive, landing an average of over \$4M of high quality seafood each year, which translates into a \$12M economic contribution to Oregon's economy. In fact, on a per capita basis, Port Orford is among the most productive of Oregon's fishing ports.

I would like to emphasize three points in the time I have today:

1) Economic Diversification - Commercial Fishing - Marine Research - Outdoor Recreation

As our local economy and marine ecology changes around us, we have responded by adapting to these changes, and we have become stronger as a result. In keeping with our mission to provide safe access to the ocean for all users, our 30 local family owned and operated commercial fishing vessels make an average 2,500 trips to sea each year, and are joined by approximately 100 recreational vessels, and another 50 trips conducting vital research in the region, most of these being commercial vessels under contract with researchers.

The Port supports scientists and students from Oregon State University, University of Oregon, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration and others in accessing the nearby Redfish Rocks Marine Reserve and surrounding waters for research on fisheries, oceanography, and marine reserve effects. The Port also supports recreational users of the ocean, including a kayak tour operator and others seeking to experience what the rich oceanic environment has to offer to both locals and visitors alike. Kayakers are joined by snorkelers, SCUBA divers, and others, and are all supported in their activities by the Port of Port Orford.

2) Job Retention and Creation

Taking advantage of our unique ocean side location facilitates the inclusion of a seawater delivery system as an integral component of our project. This will act to retain current live fish harvesters and buyer/processors, while attracting new tenants that rely on seawater access as part of their operations. This means we will retain the 130+ jobs currently dependent upon the Port's operations, while creating 30 or more new jobs. The redevelopment of the Port is essential to our continued operations and to the realization of the emergent employment potential now evident. We anticipate this redevelopment will lead to further development on other Port property, and additional employment opportunities.

3. Critical Infrastructure Context

This project is developing in the context of a comprehensive upgrade to our critical infrastructure. This summer, an emergency repair of the Port's breakwater will be carried out under a \$6.5M contract with the US Army Corps of Engineers.

We anticipate the release in April of a funding opportunity from the US Department of Transportation through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program. We hope to submit a successful proposal to this program to fund the replacement of aging high capacity cranes, boat launching and product handling equipment, and transportation infrastructure needed for safe and efficient operations. (Due to our unique ocean adjacent location, vessel operators depend on high capacity cranes to gain access to the sea, while benefiting from the absence of a dangerous bar crossing.)

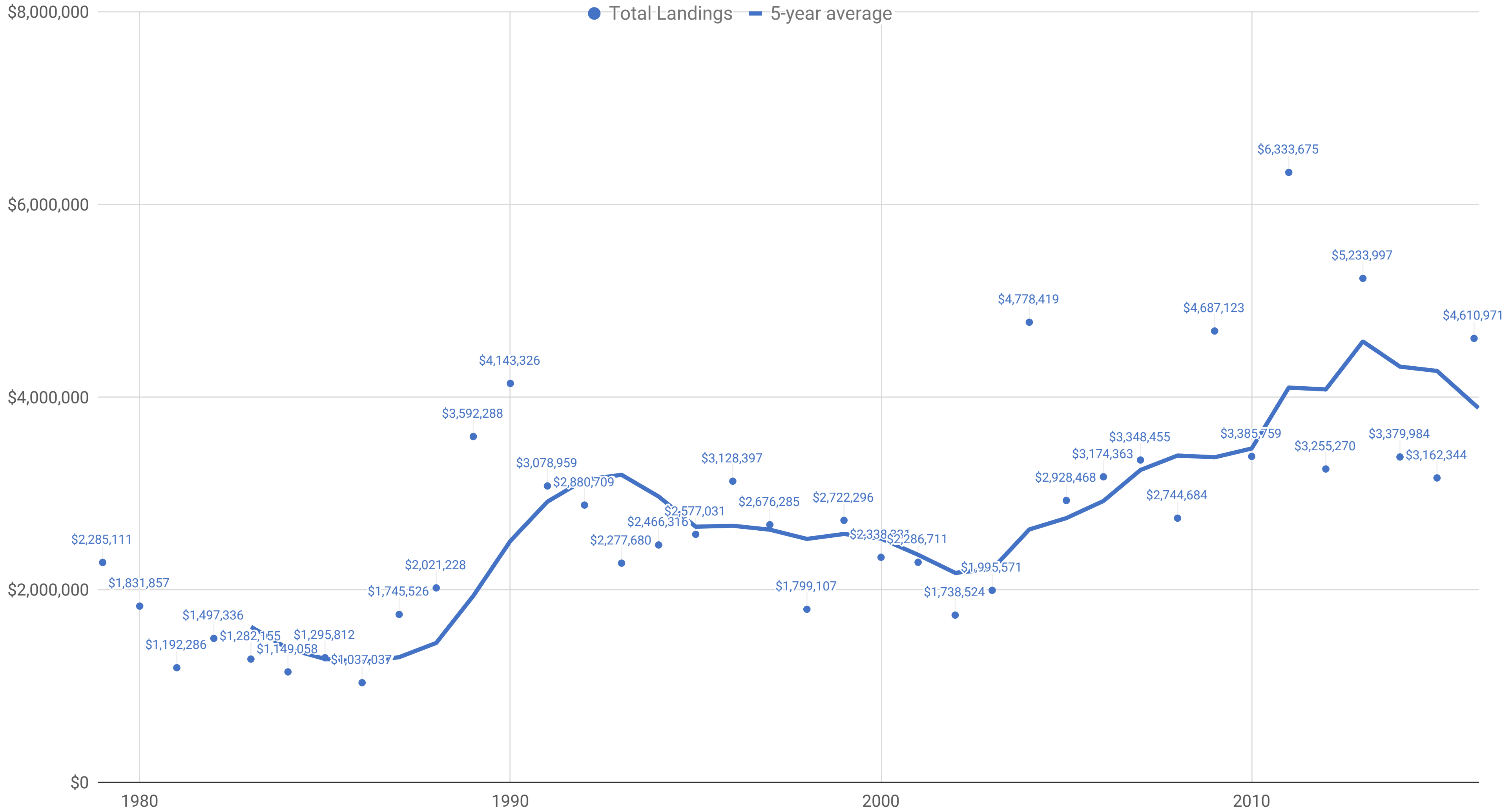
Together, these three projects will redevelop our critical infrastructure, and activate a substantial revitalization of our working waterfront.

Note: This \$1.6M appropriation from the Oregon State Legislature, along with another \$1.4M in matching funds, will unlock a \$6M construction phase of the project, and we are prepared to move forward to submit a \$3M proposal to the US Economic Development Administration to initiate this phase of the project.

Please refer to the five attached letters submitted in support of our well received Regional Infrastructure Fund proposal last year. Our proposal was ranked #1 in the state, and received \$500,000, the largest allocation of these funds, in recognition of the project's importance to the State of Oregon. We hope you'll agree, and look forward to working with you on behalf of our district residents and all Oregonians.

Thank you,
Tom Calvanese
President, Port Commission
Port of Port Orford
tom.calvanese@gmail.com
415.309.6568

Total Landings Port Orford 1979 - 2016



David Brock Smith

State Representative

HOUSE DISTRICT 1

Curry, Coos, Douglas & Josephine Counties

900 Court St NE H-379

Salem, OR 97301

503.986.1401



Committees

Economic Development & Trade—Vice Chair

Early Childhood & Family Supports

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Energy & Environment

April 30, 2018

Business Oregon

Regional Infrastructure Fund Application RE: Port of Port Orford Application

Dear Review Committee,

The Port of Port Orford's planned redevelopment, addition of infrastructure, seawater line, and space for business tenants, is one of the most significant economic development projects in our region. I strongly encourage the Rural Infrastructure Fund to provide the maximum possible support for this highly catalytic project. It highlights one of our region's unique strengths and generates a new and broader range of beneficial employment and economic opportunities for the South Coast.

In addition to addressing immediate needs and expanding local employment, this critically-needed infrastructure investment assures future adaptability. The potential commercial applications of the Port of Port Orford's raw seawater access are only beginning to be realized, and this project ensures that the community can continue to capitalize on emerging opportunities.

In recent years, the more than 30 individual businesses that make up the Port Orford fishing fleet have been able to participate in a high value "live catch" market paying fishermen more than 7 times the price per pound than they would otherwise receive. This opportunity resulted from operation of a single privately-owned seawater line at the Port. Today, under sustainable management by state and federal agencies, the fleet collectively holds more than half of the nearshore fishing permits in our state, and its operational needs support more than 30% of the Port Orford area economy.

By establishing a more generally available Port-managed seawater line, this project assures continued availability of the live catch market. Additional infrastructure and tenant space will allow a greater variety of catch purchasers to locate at the Port, and the community can continue to capitalize on and protect Port Orford Reef's remarkable productivity. The Port project also opens the door for innovative new economic activity, because it creates the conditions required by entrepreneurial businesses that require seawater access. The innovative edible seaweed (dulse) business now operating in a corner of Port property will be able to expand, and similar new entrepreneurs are likely to follow.

I appreciate your consideration and support of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Brock Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive.

David Brock Smith

Oregon House of Representatives

District 01

Curry, Coos, Douglas & Josephine Counties

Email: Rep.DavidBrockSmith@OregonLegislature.gov

Website: <http://www.OregonLegislature.gov/SmithD>



**Curry County
Board of Commissioners**

Sue Gold, *Chair*
Tom Huxley, *Vice Chair*
Court Boice, *Commissioner*

94235 Moore Street
Gold Beach, OR 97444
541-247-3296
www.co.curry.or.us

April 25, 2018

To: State of Oregon Business Oregon

The Curry County Board of Commissioners strongly encourages full funding of the Port of Port Orford's request for support from the Regional Infrastructure Fund through Business Oregon. Like many rural areas, Curry County faces many challenges in competing to attract new businesses, facilitating entrepreneurial activity, and aiding growth of existing businesses.

As described in the application, the Port has identified a comprehensive approach to site upgrades and innovative master seawater delivery system that establishes a strong foundation for significantly expanded business activity for the foreseeable future in a particularly underserved area of our county. The businesses that the Port will be able to support as a result of this project include live seafood tank managers, representing new sources of income for the fishing fleet and related products, and multiple unrelated entrepreneurial activities with enormous potential. By eliminating the Port's current severe space limitations, adding suitable infrastructure, and ensuring access to seawater and discharge management, we can transform the economic profile of the area and provide significant new employment opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sue Gold".

Sue Gold
Chair Curry County Board of Commissioners

Cc: Tom Calvanese, President, Port of Port Orford



POMSRA is a 501c3 organization, POB 1272, Port Orford, 97465

April 27, 2018

Annie Donnelly
Project Coordinator
Port of Port Orford

Dear Annie,

The Port Orford Main Street Revitalization Association is pleased to offer its enthusiastic support for the Port's Redevelopment Project. Our organization's goals are economic vitality, beautification, promotion, and preservation.

We view this project as an extremely important element to help the economy of Port Orford that has a poverty rate of 36.1%. Redevelopment at the dock not only supports our fishing fleet and their needs but also adds to the growing tourism economy. The "dolly dock" –only one of six in the world- is a gem in Port Orford. The redevelopment project will safe viewing location where visitors can enjoy watching the launching of boats and the ocean views. Additionally, the project will help preserve our community long fishing. history. Local businesses, both at the port and Main Street that are almost juxtaposed, will benefit.

We hope Business Oregon supports this project which could do so much to help our special community.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Auburn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Auburn
Executive Director





522 SE Washington Ave., Ste. 111A
Roseburg, OR 97470

(541) 672-6728 Phone
(541) 672-7011 Fax

April 25, 2018

Port of Port Orford
PO Box 490
Port Orford OR 97465

Attn: Steve Courtier, Port Manager

I am writing with reference to the Port of Port Orford's redevelopment and new infrastructure project and addition of a Port-owned seawater distribution line. The project directly advances economic priorities and objectives adopted by CCD Business Development Corporation in our most recent CEDS and Strategic Plan, and we would encourage the Rural Infrastructure Fund to give this project the utmost consideration. Port Orford has long experienced one of the highest rates of poverty in Curry County, and this project recognizes and responds to identified needs.

Our economic strategy for this region specifically identifies opportunities in "ocean/fisheries" and tourism as among our region's competitive advantages, and recommends investment in economic diversification. Our identified goals include an increase in employment opportunities and support for infrastructure assistance, with specific objectives including provision of adequate infrastructure, support for the efforts of Ports, elimination of barriers to economic development, and helping communities "build on their existing strengths and unique assets to develop their own niche economic opportunities." This project directly addresses these issues.

The proposed infrastructure plan is highly likely to provide jobs consistent with the skills and preferences of the target population, and to greatly benefit the South Coast's emerging visitor economy. Port Orford has a long and proud tradition of outdoor work connected to the ocean, and visitors are fascinated by the boat and catch hoists and opportunities to view fresh and live seafood and interact with those working at the Port. The infrastructure improvements and new seawater line at the Port will both open attractive new employment opportunities and facilitate visitor appeal, to the community's benefit.

CCD supports this application, and we are willing to participate in the project and extend support where needed.

Regards,


Eileen Ophus
Executive Director/CEO

Mission Statement

To create a climate that encourages economic development that will retain existing jobs, create new jobs, diversify local economies, support existing industry and enhance the quality of life for the regions residents, as well as providing an atmosphere for personal growth for the employees.

The South Coast Development Council's mission is to promote and support businesses that provide quality jobs through responsible development on Oregon's South Coast.



April 27th, 2018

Port of Port Orford
300 Dock Rd
Port Orford, OR 97465

RE: Port Orford Redevelopment Project

Annie Donnelly,

On behalf of the South Coast Development Council (SCDC), I would like to show support for the proposed Port Orford redevelopment project.

The SCDC exists to “promote and support businesses” in Coos, Curry, coastal Douglas, and coastal Lane counties. The proposed addition of larger, appropriately designed seawater-friendly structures and fundamental infrastructure upgrades will both allow expansion of businesses currently operating at the Port and increase Port capacity to accept additional business tenants and support more job opportunities.

This project will be a great asset to a community that has struggled for many years with poverty and this approach using Port property to maximize value added activity on top of existing fleet support. The creation of a Port-owned central seawater system will establish an important driver for those and additional economic undertakings and set the foundation for significant diversification of the local economy. The job creation, training, and economic development elements of the project align with SCDC’s mission and vision to grow a thriving and diverse business community on Oregon’s south coast.

The SCDC believes this investment on the infrastructure will reap rewards for both the state and region for years to come and we enthusiastically support this project.

Thank you for your continued investment and support in our community.

Sincerely,

Samuel Baugh
Executive Director SCDC
50 Central Ave
Coos Bay, OR, 97420

◆◆ Sponsor Investors ◆◆

Bandon Dunes Golf Resort ◆ Bay Area Hospital ◆ City of Brookings ◆ City of Coos Bay ◆ City of North Bend ◆ Coos County
Curry County ◆ Jordan Cove Energy ◆ Oregon International Port of Coos Bay ◆ Southwest Oregon Regional Airport

Port of Port Orford Redevelopment

