

23 March 2021

To: House Committee on Energy and Environment

Re: House Bill 3278

Dear Chair Representative Marsh, Vice-Chairs Representatives Helm and Brock Smith, and members of the Committee:

I would like to ask just what pressing reasons there are to make it necessary that Oregon's Departments of Fish and Wildlife, State Lands, and State Parks & Recreation all need to study the potential for developing commercial seaweed production? Study, for the sake of study, i.e., pure research, has been and is already being done by NOAA and universities associated with the National Sea Grant program and others.

Private businesses in Oregon have been for some time engaged in growing kelp commercially, e.g., *Oregon Dulce* in Bandon, and *Oregon Sea Farms* in Port Orford. There is even an *Oregon Kelp Alliance*.

Has ODFW, State Lands, and Parks and Recreation so much free time, resources and available funds that it can devote sufficient time to fulfill the mandate of this bill? Would that be at the expense of not fulfilling it's already designated mandate(s)?

My hesitancy regarding this bill is why does the state need to expend time, money and resources on such a study? Particularly when there are so many pressing needs elsewhere. For that reason I am against passing this bill.

There is no urgency in passing this bill. A study such as this can wait. Studying commercial kelp production ought not be near the top of anyone's list of priorities at the legislative level.

Can we first clean up what's on the plates we already have going before we add yet more to the "To Do List"? Some sort of triage needs to be practiced on these legislative bills and it is my hope that HB 3278 will be left to die a quiet peaceful death.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard Wisner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Wisner