

Submitter: Kyle Stevens

On Behalf Of: Southwestern Oregon Workforce Investment Board

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB2909

As the Workforce Board for the Southwestern Oregon Region, we strive to increase the economic stability of our area especially on the Southern Oregon Coast. We support the opportunity for our local fisheries and seafood businesses to have the resources available to expand their current capacity to process, cook and store their products as a local resource for seafood markets and restaurants. Increased capacity in these areas will allow an increased amount of local product to be retained in our area and available to our residents and the tourists who visit our area for these products. Additionally it will reduce the need to import seafood which will reduce the cost for local businesses and in turn our local consumers.

Our coastal communities rely heavily on tourists visiting our area, they were among the hardest hit during the pandemic. Having the capacity to reduce the import of seafood and retain more product locally will benefit area fisheries, processing plants and local restaurants increasing their ability to offer a local product at a fair market price. Expanded facilities and storage will allow our local businesses to thrive which directly benefits the economic stability of Southwestern Oregon.