

Submitter: Jasmine Lillich

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business

Measure: HB2909

The Clatskanie Farmers Market's work to grow a robust and equitable food system in Columbia County through community engagement, education, food producer support, and improved access to local food has been tremendously supported by the Oregon Coast Visitors Association (OCVA). Passing this bill would allow OCVA to increase their capacity for supporting organizations such as ours. There is a strong need for more locally produced food products in the North Coast to meet consumer demand. The Clatskanie Food Hub, a year-round nonprofit local food storefront and program under the Clatskanie Farmers Market, will open June 2023 and intends to sell local seafood. Columbia County has very limited options for purchasing seafood and most of the available seafood products are imported. This bill is instrumental for increasing the availability of local seafood and local seafood products at the Clatskanie Food Hub and throughout the North Coast.

"HB 2909 is an essential part of ensuring that locally caught seafood is accessible and affordable. Moreover, the bill helps to ensure that businesses have the resources they need to process seafood locally and reduce the path from the ocean to the consumer. Small changes will make a big difference. A 10-percent increase in local seafood usage on the Oregon Coast would generate an additional \$90 million for local economies (OCVA, 2022)."

Please consider the far reaching impact this bill will have for our Oregon Coast producers, the health of our communities, and our local economies. Thank you.