

Dear Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Wildfire:

My name is Laura Anderson and I am the founder of Local Ocean Seafoods, Yaquina Lab and Central Coast Food Web in Newport.

I write in strong support of HB2979. As a seafood producer on the Oregon Coast for the last 25 years, I have seen and experienced the challenges facing our small and mid size producers. People often ask me, why is it so hard to find and buy local seafood in Oregon (we now know from a recent study that 90% of the seafood consumed in Oregon, even on the Coast, is not from Oregon!). The short answer is because it is really hard! The long answer is more complicated.

Oregon needs investments in seafood processing infrastructure. This includes facilities, like the one I started in Newport- Yaquina Lab, that provide low cost, low risk shared space and equipment to seafood producers.

- A small producer cannot spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to get their own facilities up and running. What they can spend is \$25/hour for a licensed fillet space that is available only when they need it.
- A small producer cannot spend 6 hours on the road to deliver fish every week top Portland. What they can spend is 50 cents a pound for shared distribution from the coast to the valley markets.

The funds from HB2979 will help support Food Hubs, like the Yaquina Lab run by the Central Coast Food Web here in Newport - so they can continue to provide equipment, licensing and business support, and cold storage to new and emerging businesses.

These are the businesses that provide new markets and economic growth in our coastal communities.

So please pass HB2979 and help Oregon's Food Hub network and Farmers Markets do what they do best: provide for economic development and local food security.

Thank you

Laura Anderson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LA', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Local Ocean Seafoods, Founder

Yaquina Lab, Owner

Central Coast Food Web, Board Emeritus