

---

## **Arnie Roblan**

*Oregon Speaker of the House of Representatives & Oregon Senator - Retired*

## **Caddy Hanen McKeown**

*Oregon House of Representative - Retired*

---

March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025

Dear Co-Chairs Owen and Helm, Vice-Chair McDonald, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water Resources:

We write today to urge your support of HB 3486. On the policy side, this bill memorializes an already established practice to ensure the partnership between Oregon State University, the University of Oregon, and the State's natural resource agencies when it comes to the Oregon Research Vessel Program.

HB 3486 appropriates funds for the ORV Program; one to ensure funding to operate the existing research vessels (R/V Megalopa & R/V Taani), and one to make safety improvements for underwater exploration by Program divers.

We have been privileged to represent significant portions of the central and south coast, and to serve as members of the Coastal Caucus during our legislative tenures. While serving we were proud to be involved with the funding that ensured the Research Vessel Megalopa was able to be built locally and launched in June 2023. Today you can ensure that this vessel and the R/V Taani, as well as the other ships operating out of both Winchester Bay and Newport

---

can continue to gather important data from the Pacific Ocean that will further our understanding of arguably Oregon's most significant natural resource.

Please show your support for this important ongoing work by voting to move HB 3486 forward.

Best regards,

Arnie Roblan



Caddy McKeown

