

4 March 2025

House Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Support for House Bill 3486 – Funding for the Oregon Institute for Marine Biology

Dear Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, Vice-Chairs and Members of the Committee,

I write to express my enthusiastic support for House Bill 3486, which would provide much-needed funding to support the Oregon Institute for Marine Biology (OIMB) at the University of Oregon. This funding is crucial to ensuring that OIMB can continue to advance marine research, education, and conservation efforts that benefit Oregon's coastal communities and ecosystems.

One of the most critical aspects of this bill is its support for securing time on research vessels, which are essential for conducting field-based marine studies. Oregon's coastal waters are home to diverse marine life and vital ecosystems that require ongoing research and monitoring to understand and mitigate environmental changes that may have serious consequences for the state and beyond. Funding for research vessel access will allow scientists, students, and policy experts to gather data essential for sustainable fisheries management, marine biodiversity conservation, and the resilience of coastal ecosystems in the face of climate change.

By investing in OIMB and its research initiatives, the state will not only enhance Oregon's reputation as a leader in marine science but also directly contribute to the protection of its marine resources. Furthermore, providing students with hands-on experience through research cruises will foster the next generation of marine scientists and professionals who will drive innovation in environmental stewardship and marine-based industries.

I urge you to support House Bill 3486 to ensure that OIMB has the resources necessary to continue its vital work. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to Oregon's higher education institutions and environmental sustainability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judith S. Eisen', written in a cursive style.

Judith S. Eisen
Professor and Head, University of Oregon Department of Biology