



March 4, 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 am writing to express my strong 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 and education efforts that benefit Oregon's coastal communities and ecosystems, and Oregon's economy.

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 their functioning and to mitigate changes. Funding for research vessel access will allow scientists, students, and policy experts to gather data essential for sustainable fisheries management, understanding and protecting healthy ecosystem services, and increasing 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 sustainability 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, to ocean health, and to Oregon's blue economy.

Sincerely,

Trish Mace

Directory, University of Oregon's Charleston Marine Life Center