



March 12, 2025

TO: Members of the Senate Committee on

FR: Duke Shepard, Oregon Business & Industry

RE: Support for SB 921 (with amendments -1 and/or -2)

OBI is a statewide association representing businesses across a wide variety of industries from all 36 of Oregon's counties. In addition to being the statewide chamber of commerce, OBI is the state affiliate for the National Association of Manufacturers and the National Retail Federation. Our 1,600 member companies, more than 75% of which are small businesses, employ over 250,000 Oregonians. Oregon's private-sector businesses drive a healthy, prosperous economy for the benefit of everyone.

OBI supports SB 921 and the amendments being brought forward by Senator David Brock Smith to restore and enhance the full functionality of shipyard repair operations at the Charleston Shipyard.

Revitalizing and expanding ship repair operations will not only create immediate, high-quality jobs in the area, but also strengthen Charleston's and the broader Port of Coos Bay region's long-term competitiveness. Despite Oregon's coastal communities' significant natural advantages, they have faced economic challenges for decades. This project, along with others currently under consideration, offers a real opportunity to reverse this trend and foster the business growth and job creation these communities need and deserve. With the right focus and investment, we have the potential to outpace California and Washington in securing a substantial share of this work. But this will only be possible if we prioritize it.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and OBI's support.