



HB 3246: Support Industrial Symbiosis

March 12, 2025

Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chair Diehl, Vice-Chair Isadore and House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business and Trade Members:

On behalf of the Oregon Coast Visitors Association, I am writing to support HB 3246 and urge its passage. Industrial Symbiosis provides an opportunity to innovate, create new value-added products and provide an excellent opportunity to solve some regulatory issues facing seafood processors.

As a coastal business association, we are most interested in capturing and transforming costly fish waste into valuable, value-added products. Industrial Symbiosis is additive to and perfectly complements our efforts in HB 2969 – 100 Percent Fish. Therefore, HB 3246 will help both our coastal region, and the rest of the Oregon by keeping dirty waste water out of our natural environment, leading to cleaner water critical to all of our futures.

Furthermore, removing waste from the water discharges in seafood processing plants would help alleviate permitting issues with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality in some places. Recently, the DEQ changed wastewater treatment requirements for seafood processors, causing some to close locations and creating obstacles for compliance. If we remove waste from the process stream, less wastewater filtering would be needed to meet DEQ requirements.

Instances like this show us - that with open minds and thoughtful innovation - we do not have to choose between a thriving economy, good paying jobs and protecting the environment and our natural resources.

HB 3246 creates opportunities to help the environment, improve our water quality and also help business through building innovative new ventures in our state while also easing regulatory issues in some cases.

Sincerely,

Marcus Hinz, Executive Director
Oregon Coast Visitors Association