

Submitter: Matt McGrath

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3246

Matt McGrath – Port of Astoria

Support for House Bill 3246

House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chairs Isadore and Diehl, and Committee Members:

I had the opportunity to travel to Denmark last June with a delegation of Oregonians to see industrial symbiosis in action. Industrial symbiosis is the straightforward concept that businesses can work together to turn waste into profit. In both urban and rural areas, I saw businesses working together to find innovative solutions to take otherwise wasted resources and use these materials for economic benefit.

The Port of Astoria is now putting the finishing touches on a feasibility study to develop a Byproduct Recovery Center which will connect seafood processors to capture and reuse water to recover valuable byproducts. Instead of chemically treating the water and relegating the harmful sludge to landfill, we can instead create marketable goods.

Supporting this type of locally driven, voluntary collaboration between public and private entities is but one of the reasons why House 3246 and the -3 amendment should be passed. A small investment from the state will provide technical assistance for up to six pilot projects that will ensure we are making innovative infrastructure decisions that reduce waste, enhance environmental outcomes, and strengthen local economies.

I urge your support for House Bill 3246 and the -3 amendment to advance responsible stewardship of Oregon's natural resources.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt McGrath
Deputy Director
Port of Astoria