

Submitter: George Waldbusser

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3786

Now more than ever the states must step up and support research that helps inform policy makers, the public, and industry on the future of our coastal resources. Oregon has been a world leader in marine research and has excelled in engagement with industry, combining fundamental basic research with applications to assist aquaculture and fishing industries and the working class families supported by those industries. With diminishing federal funds, the state must continue to invest in the future of our coastal resources by providing funds for research, discovery, and sustainable management of those resources. As a previous recipient of state funds through the OAH council, not only has those funds allowed my research program to develop new data on native Olympia oyster responses to environmental variation, it has also allowed for the training of multiple graduate students and several undergraduates. Workforce development is a core principle that I hope all of the state can get behind, in providing these sorts of opportunities for students to work on active research, students may combine the theory from classes to applications. In addition, several of these students have engaged in data analyses and have strong interests in working to manage coastal resources in ways that benefit the local economies while ensuring those resources remain for generations to come. While I am quite proud of the research and findings that the OOST funding has provided, what is equally as impressive is the work, effort, thought, and passion a handful of students working on these research questions has demonstrated. Watching them grow into mature, critical thinking junior scientists, while engaging in careful research continues to be a highlight for me personally, and it is critical for ensuring the future of our shared resources, a well trained workforce who can get work done. Finally, the engagement with industry and public around this work on Olympia oysters has been fantastic, and many of the public persons I speak with informally (often at public docks or the Newport boat ramp) recognize and appreciate the allocation of funds to study our estuaries and the living resources within them. I hope you can see the multidimensional benefits of continued support of marine research through the state. And I ask you to support this bill for the future of our coastal waters.