



**To:** House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

**Re:** House Bill 3786 – The Blue Economy Bill

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water members, I write this letter in full support of House Bill 3786, the Blue Economy Bill.

There has never been a more important time for the State of Oregon to support ocean and coastal science, particularly in light of federal reductions in agency budgets and staffing in natural resource fields.

A key component of Oregon's economy is derived from our ocean and coast. The Gross Domestic Product from Oregon's ocean sector is \$2.5 billion, and Oregon's ocean coastal economy fuels more than 800,000 jobs. A total of 41 percent of Oregon's population works in coastal sectors. This economy is based on a healthy ocean and sound, current scientific information to inform ocean and coastal management and policy.

The Oregon Ocean Science Trust has an excellent track record of responsibly managing state funds and has overseen the implementation of 14 research projects that include outcomes such as installing and managing a climate station in Yaquina Bay, monitoring ocean temperatures and pH in marine reserves as well as documenting the effects of these climate stressors on Oregon's shellfish species, developing best practices to inform sustainable shellfish cultivation, mapping uncharted nearshore areas along the southern Oregon coast, and improving understanding of juvenile fish along Oregon's nearshore, to name a few. We must continue to sponsor these types of projects to ensure the long-term sustainability of the products and services Oregonians value from the ocean.

Transportation is a key issue the Oregon Legislature is tackling during this legislative session. Transportation solutions for the Oregon coast rely on new technologies and scientific information to guide how we address coastal erosion, storm surges, sand management, and sea level rise, all of which have the potential to affect property values, quality of life, transportation, and public safety for all Oregonians.

The Oregon Ocean Science Trust recognizes the importance of having a diversified funding portfolio to support the science and data needed to responsibly manage our ocean resources, and are working with the California Ocean Science Trust, Washington partners, Tribes, and others to launch a major initiative, the West Coast Ocean Science Agenda, that is intended to accelerate private philanthropic contributions for ocean and coastal research. In the time it takes to deliver that science-based agenda (2-3 years), state support is needed to continue to address existing and emerging ocean and coastal issues. Thank you for considering supporting this important bill as part of Oregon's overall budget.

Lisa DeBruyckere, President  
Creative Resource Strategies, LLC  
<https://www.createstrat.com>