

## Letter of Opposition to Bill 3814

Dear Oregon Legislators,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Bill 3814, which seeks to prohibit the Environmental Quality Commission and the Department of Environmental Quality from requiring seafood processors to meet water quality or purity standards for bacteria in effluent discharges associated with fecal sources. This bill, if enacted, poses a significant threat to the health and well-being of both our environment and our communities.

Effluent discharges from seafood processors can contain harmful levels of bacteria, including fecal coliforms, which pose serious risks to public health. These bacteria can contaminate water bodies, leading to the spread of waterborne diseases and impacting the safety of drinking water for countless individuals. Additionally, the presence of these contaminants can severely harm aquatic ecosystems, disrupting the delicate balance of marine life and endangering species. As someone who does water quality sampling for Blue Water Task Force I see first-hand what a huge issue this is for our coastal community.

By exempting seafood processors from adhering to water quality standards, Bill 3814 undermines the essential work of the Environmental Quality Commission and the Department of Environmental Quality. These agencies are tasked with protecting our natural resources and ensuring that industries operate in a manner that does not compromise public health or the environment. Allowing seafood processors to bypass these critical regulations sets a dangerous precedent and opens the door to increased pollution and environmental degradation.

Furthermore, maintaining strict water quality standards is not only a matter of environmental stewardship but also of economic sustainability. Clean and healthy water bodies are vital for the fishing and tourism industries, which rely on pristine natural resources to thrive. Neglecting water quality standards could lead to long-term economic harm, affecting livelihoods and local economies that depend on a healthy environment.

In conclusion, I urge you to oppose Bill 3814. Protecting our water quality and ensuring the safety of our communities should be a top priority. We must hold all industries, including seafood processors, accountable to the same standards of environmental responsibility to safeguard the health of our citizens and the integrity of our ecosystems.

Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter.

Sincerely,

Jill Marks, Newport, OR

