



## Tillamook County Board of Commissioners

201 Laurel Avenue, Tillamook, OR 97141

Phone: 503-842-3403

Erin D. Skaar, Chair

Paul Fournier, Vice-Chair

Mary Faith Bell, Commissioner

March 17, 2025

Chair Neron, Vice-Chair Dobson, Vice-Chair McIntyre and House Committee on Education Members:

I appreciate the opportunity to testify today in support of **HB 3568 – the Seafood to Schools Act**.

I have been a resident of Tillamook County for the past 30 years. My home of 28 years is ¼ mile from the Pacific Ocean. I was surprised to learn recently that an overwhelming majority of seafood caught in Oregon waters is processed and shipped out of the state! Imagine, all of that high quality product being sent away while we import and eat lesser-quality seafood.

I support **HB 3568 – the Seafood to Schools Act** because I believe it will not only help feed our children a healthier, higher quality product, it will teach those same children the importance of locally sustainable fisheries while also providing a much-needed economic boost to our fishers - and hopefully stimulate more local seafood production and processing.

I have been impressed with the Oregon Coast Visitor's Association approach to regional destination management. Their philosophy seems to be that a destination with a stable, natural resource-centric economy, that also celebrates locals and their livelihoods, is a destination worth visiting and returning to often – and I agree.

If passed, I trust that OCVA will take this mission to heart and change local school food culture for the better. I echo their belief that passing **HB 3568 – the Seafood to Schools Act** is an investment in our coastal communities, not an expenditure.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed Bill.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Fournier".

Paul Fournier, Vice-Chair  
Tillamook County Board of Commissioners