



March 17, 2025

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

As Program Director at SOLVE and a board member of the Oregon Coast Visitors Association, I am proud to support HB 3568 – the Seafood to Schools Act. This initiative is a smart, forward-thinking investment that benefits Oregon’s students, fishing industry, and coastal communities alike.

At SOLVE, we engage thousands of volunteers each year in environmental stewardship, and a critical part of that work is helping people understand the direct connection between sustainable local resources and community well-being. The Seafood to Schools Act reinforces that connection by bringing fresh, local seafood into schools while educating the next generation on food sustainability, culinary skills, and coastal economies.

This bill is an opportunity to support Oregon’s fishing industry by expanding access to locally caught seafood, providing students with nutritious, high-quality meals that fuel learning and health, and educating and inspiring future chefs, fishers, and food system leaders through hands-on training in seafood butchery and preparation.

Real progress has already been made through the Seafood to Schools working group—getting more local seafood into schools, developing training programs, and crafting student-friendly recipes. HB 3568 builds on that momentum, ensuring this effort continues to grow and succeed.

This isn’t just about today’s school lunches. It’s about strengthening Oregon’s economy, empowering future generations, and celebrating the resources that make our coastal communities thrive. I urge you to pass HB 3568 and invest in a stronger, healthier future for our state.

Sincerely,
Taylor Neitzke
Program Director, SOLVE