

Submitter: Kyle Motley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3814

Dear Members of the Oregon Legislative Assembly,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3814. As a resident of Coos Bay and an avid surfer, I have personally witnessed the detrimental effects of water pollution in our coastal waters. The health of our waterways is of critical importance to our environment, economy, and communities, and I am deeply concerned about the consequences this bill would have.

Coos Bay already suffers from significant pollution, and I have seen friends develop skin conditions after surfing near the mouth of the bay. Reducing or eliminating water quality standards for seafood processors will only exacerbate this problem. No industry should be granted exemptions from adhering to water quality standards that are designed to protect our waters and public health.

This bill directly threatens the health of our estuaries and nearshore environments, which are essential to the ecological balance of our coastal regions. Estuaries serve as critical nurseries for marine life, supporting fisheries that our coastal communities rely upon. Additionally, recreational and commercial activities depend on clean water, and further pollution will jeopardize these industries.

Furthermore, HB 3814 appears to violate federal laws established under the Clean Water Act, which mandates the regulation of pollutants, including bacteria from fecal sources. Weakening regulations at the state level would not only endanger our waters but also invite legal challenges and enforcement actions.

I urge you to reject HB 3814 and instead support policies that strengthen, rather than undermine, Oregon's water quality protections. Our coastal communities deserve clean and safe waters, and it is the responsibility of our state government to ensure that industries operate without compromising the health of our environment and residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kyle Motley
Coos Bay Resident