

Re: HB3786 (Support)

Dear Co-Chair Helms, Co-Chair Owens and members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support for the Blue Economy Bill, HB 3786. My name is Haley Hudson, and I am a marine scientist pursuing my doctorate at Oregon State University, where my research focuses on ocean chemistry and ecology. During my time in Oregon, I have developed a deep appreciation for the unique richness of the Oregon Coast, both as a researcher and a recreational enthusiast. I am submitting testimony on behalf of myself.

In my work, I collaborate directly with Dungeness crab fishermen to track low-oxygen "dead zones," which have become more frequent due to climate change. These dead zones threaten the sustainability of this critical fishery, the most lucrative single-species fishery in the state, and the livelihoods that depend on it. Funding for the ocean science trust, particularly providing funding for hypoxia and ocean acidification research, is critical for understanding how and when these valuable fisheries are impacted by dead zones to inform management and solutions.

The Ocean Science Trust has already funded important research including assessing marine reserves, ocean acidification and hypoxia research, and near-shore coastal research. These projects have helped shape coastal management decisions which support biodiversity and resilience. It has helped expand hypoxia monitoring on the Oregon coast to critical areas including marine reserves and Dungeness crab fishing grounds. It allowed fishermen and managers the ability to respond when hypoxic conditions arose. This important information is not possible without investment in science.

Funding for the Ocean Science Trust is critical for the State of Oregon to be able to effectively mitigate and adapt to the climate crisis. Climate change manifests in the ocean through marine heat waves, ocean acidification, deoxygenation, sea level rise, and intensifying storms. Each of these can have devastating impacts on local fisheries, recreation and coastal communities. Oregon needs science based policy and management in order to effectively confront these growing challenges. I urge you to support the passage of HB 3786.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Haley Hudson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Haley Hudson