

3/18/2025

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

Subject: Strong Support for HB 3568 – The Seafood to Schools Act

Dear Committee members

As Chef Frank Murphy, Culinary Arts teacher at North Bend High School in North Bend, I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for HB 3568, the Seafood to Schools Act.

The Seafood to Schools working group has demonstrated significant success in increasing seafood sales to schools, providing vital culinary training, and developing nutritious seafood recipes for child nutrition programs. However, as they have identified, there are still significant opportunities for growth. We must maintain and build upon this momentum to achieve the next level of success.

HB 3568 is crucial for ensuring that school food preparers and students have the necessary technical support to prepare fresh, local seafood. This bill would provide vital funding to support training in seafood butchery and preparation, benefiting both current school food programs and future chefs. It will also foster creativity by encouraging the development of kid-friendly local seafood dishes.


This funding is not merely an expenditure; it is an investment in the health and education of our children, and in the vitality of our coastal economy. It will yield benefits for generations to come.

As a Culinary Arts teacher, I can attest to the profound impact that access to fresh seafood has on my students. We live on the coast, yet obtaining fresh fish in quantities that make a meaningful difference in hands-on training for my approximately 150 students per day is incredibly challenging due to cost.

Last year, thanks to the groundwork laid by the Seafood to Schools initiative, my students had the invaluable opportunity to work with salmon, crab, tuna, ling cod, rockfish, and oysters. The enthusiasm was palpable, and my students are already eagerly asking about this year's seafood training. Without funding, it is difficult to provide these learning experiences.

Supporting HB 3568 is a win-win situation: it strengthens our fishing industry, boosts our coastal economy, and provides healthy, nutritious meals for our children.

I urge you to pass HB 3568. Please support this vital legislation and help us bring the bounty of our local seafood to our schools.

Sincerely, 

Chef Frank Murphy
Culinary Arts Teacher
North Bend High School
North Bend, Oregon