

Submitter: Chelsea Brooks

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3814

1. Why do you care about water pollution? (e.g., I care because I recreate in coastal waters, I'm involved with BWTF, I've gotten sick after surfing, etc)

2.

3.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Bill 3814, which seeks to prohibit the Environmental Quality Commission and the Department of Environmental Quality from

requiring seafood processors to meet water quality or purity standards for bacteria in effluent discharges associated with fecal sources. This bill, if enacted, poses a significant

threat to the health and well-being of both our environment and our communities.

Effluent discharges from seafood processors can contain harmful levels of bacteria, including fecal coliforms, which pose serious risks to public health. These bacteria can

contaminate water bodies, leading to the spread of waterborne diseases and impacting the safety of drinking water for countless individuals. Additionally, the presence of these

contaminants can severely harm aquatic ecosystems, disrupting the delicate balance of marine life and endangering species. I've recently experience surfing for the first time while visiting Baja Mexico. Our instructor was prepared to leave his country for New Zealand and spoke negatively of the decline in water health safety practices in most of the northern beaches on the West Coast of Baja. The smell of sewage alone is causing tourism to decline on beaches close to Tijuana and bigger cities along the coastline.

By exempting seafood processors from adhering to water quality standards, Bill 3814 undermines the essential work of the Environmental Quality Commission and the Department of Environmental Quality. These agencies are tasked with protecting our natural resources and ensuring that industries operate in a manner that does not compromise public health or the environment. Allowing seafood processors to bypass these critical regulations sets a dangerous precedent and opens the door to increased

pollution and environmental degradation. As written, this bill is incompatible and

inconsistent with federal law and could not be enforced in Oregon and bacteria criteria are a public health standard required under federal law

Furthermore, maintaining strict water quality standards is not only a matter of environmental stewardship but also of economic sustainability. Clean and healthy water

bodies are vital for the fishing and tourism industries, which rely on pristine natural resources to thrive. Neglecting water quality standards could lead to long-term economic

harm, affecting livelihoods and local economies that depend on a healthy environment. Oregon relies not only on tourism but the production & harvesting of seafood will be impacted by those who choose to abuse the ocean with any deregulation of the EPA in disposal practices. We have worked for decades on eliminating bad actors who don't care about the impact they have on the planet - please don't allow this bill to pass and ruin all of that hard work & healthy progress. Furthermore, exempting one industry from this standard can create a dangerous precedent for further deregulation and increased pollution of our waters and air.

In conclusion, I urge you to oppose Bill 3814. Protecting our water quality and ensuring the safety of our communities should be a top priority. We must hold all industries, including seafood processors, accountable to the same standards of environmental responsibility to safeguard the health of our citizens and the integrity of our ecosystems.

Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter.