



March 19, 2025

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Erik Andersson

**2024-2025**  
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The Honorable Representative Courtney Neron, Chair  
The Honorable Representative April Dobson, Vice-Chair  
The Honorable Representative McIntyre, Vice-Chair  
House Committee on Education  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Support for HB 3568 – the Seafood to Schools Act

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

I am writing in full support of HB 3568 – the Seafood to Schools Act. This bill will support Oregon's fishing industry as well as provide healthy foods to children around the state. It's a win for the fishing industry, Oregon's coastal economies and children's health.

As a regional economic development organization centered in the Willamette Valley of Oregon, SEDCOR's work plan includes a major focus on agricultural innovation. There are 200 products grown in the region, and we've developed significant supply chains that incorporate everything from food processing and beverage manufacturing to logistics and machinery manufacturing. Developing new products and nurturing new markets is an important aspect of successful innovation, and we see programs of the Oregon Ocean Cluster like the Seafood to Schools initiative to be a strong base from which to foster innovation.

SEDCOR partners with AgLaunch to support our Northwest Regional Innovation Cluster (RIC), which focuses on growing small businesses and catalyzing innovation and technologies in the agriculture and food sectors. The Pacific Northwest RIC is centered in SEDCOR's region of the Willamette Valley, but also serves as the primary point of contact for connectivity with partners like the OCVA and the Oregon Ocean Cluster. As such, we are committed to being advisors and collaborators with this project as it aligns with our efforts to develop new markets for value-added Oregon food products.

The Seafood to Schools Bill is a wonderful way to ensure that school food preparers and students have the technical support to prepare fresh local seafood. It also would support training for future chefs in seafood butchery and preparation, in addition to sparking their imaginations through development of creative, kid-friendly local seafood dishes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Erik Andersson, President