



**Rogue  
Climate**

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Wednesday, March 19, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 3568 – the Seafood to Schools Act.

This bill is important to Rogue Climate because it provides an economic opportunity to support the local fishing industry while also allowing children to have access to local seafood products. Often, seafood served in schools is imported from other regions.

This bill will support the local fishing industry on the coast and provide healthy proteins to children around the state. It's a win for the fishing industry, for our local economies on the coast, and for the health of schoolchildren.

Currently, Coastal communities are building the necessary infrastructure and capacity to bring more Oregon-landed seafood to coastal and inland communities in our state. Through active work on this issue, the Oregon Coast Visitors Association (OCVA) and the Oregon Ocean Cluster (OOC) connected with the Oregon Farm to School Network to explore expanding access to—and education about—seafood for Oregon students. This has become the Seafood to Schools working group.

While the Seafood to Schools working group has successfully increased sales to schools, coordinated culinary training and resources for child nutrition programs, and developed seafood recipes for child nutrition programs, it has also identified opportunities and needs for future growth. Please keep this amazing momentum moving and help raise this effort to the next level of success by supporting HB 3568!

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

HB 3568 benefits the fishing industry, coastal economies, and for the children. This funding is not an expenditure; it's an investment that will pay off for generations. We encourage you to pass HB 3568.

Sincerely,

Ashley Audycki, South Coast Coordinator