

Submitter: Ken Bonetti

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3814

Dear Committee Members,

I wish to state my opposition to this bill as it will deregulate effluent from seafood processors and negatively affect our waterways. I understand that seafood processors need support in upgrading their infrastructure to meet upgraded water quality standards. Such upgrades and state support for those should be the focus of legislation, not wholesale deregulation of processor effluent, which merely allows processors to externalize their costs at the expense of water quality, the ecological health of waterways and the overall health of the general public. This bill seems like it was hastily written at the last minute at the behest of specific interests rather than carefully thought out as to the ripple effects that such deregulation may cause. I urge you to reconsider this problem and devise a solution that meets the needs of both processors and the broader public who will be adversely affected by a degradation of water quality. Such is clearly avoidable if legislators put some effort toward problem solving rather than short term expediency. You are entrusted with meeting the needs of the broader public, not just specific vocal interests, regardless of the specific needs of those interests. Passing this bill as is will significantly degrade public trust in the legislators' competence as stewards of our already degraded and dwindling natural assets. Please do the right thing and stop this bill, go back to the drawing boards and devise a smart solution that works for everyone and protects rather than degrades our precious environment.

Sincerely,

Ken Bonetti, North Bend, OR