

Submitter: Terry Finlayson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3568

March 19, 2025

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

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

This bill is important to me because I am in the food service hospitality industry, I went to cooking school and never learned much about fish, High schoolers need other avenues of success besides college, everyone should eat more fish, less meat, and all the people I know who don't like fish don't like fish because they really haven't had fish. I could go on and on.

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

Right now, our Coastal communities are in the process of building necessary infrastructure and capacity to bring more Oregon-landed seafood to coastal and inland communities in our state. Through active work on this issue, 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, 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!!

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.

This funding is not an expenditure; it's an investment that will pay off for generations. We encourage you to pass HB 3568.

It's good for the fishing industry, it's good for our coastal economy and it's healthy for our children AND ALL OF US.

Sincerely,

Terry Finlayson