



CLEAN WATER. HEALTHY RIVERS.

March 19, 2025

Columbia Riverkeeper's Testimony to the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment in Opposition to HB 3814. Submitted by Teryn Yazdani, Staff Attorney.

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Gamba and Levy, and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in opposition to House Bill (HB) 3814 as written. Columbia Riverkeeper is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the Columbia River and all life associated with it, from its headwaters to the Pacific Ocean. Columbia Riverkeeper has over 36,000 members and supporters who live, work, and recreate throughout the Columbia River Basin, including thousands of members and supporters in Oregon. We fight to protect clean water and maintain the strongest water quality standards to benefit the health of the Columbia River, its species, and the many communities that depend on it.

As currently written, HB 3814 completely suspends water quality standards and criteria from all seafood processors in Oregon. This is not only inconsistent with governing, long-established federal law and standards, but it is also a massive health risk for those who recreate, fish, and swim in impacted water bodies. Effluent from seafood processing facilities may contain several harmful contaminants including bacteria, including fecal coliform, which pose serious public health risks.

Further, Alaska, Washington, and California all achieve these standards with sideboards that are still protective of public health. Modeling permitting policies for seafood processors in these states instead of a complete suspension of water quality standards would be more valuable and much more protective of Oregonians. Clean water is a right, and all people deserve the opportunity to swim, fish, and recreate without fear of getting sick. **For the aforementioned reasons, Columbia Riverkeeper urges you to oppose this bill and prevent HB 3814 from moving forward.**

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Teryn Yazdani, Staff Attorney, Columbia Riverkeeper

HOOD RIVER OFFICE
P.O. Box 950
Hood River, OR 97031
(541) 387-3030

PORTLAND OFFICE
1125 SE Madison St, 103A
Portland, OR 97214
(503) 432-8927

COLUMBIA RIVERKEEPER®

www.columbiariverkeeper.org info@columbiariverkeeper.org