

Submitter: Anne Pollard

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Climate, Energy, and Environment

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3814

I have been actively involved with the Blue Water Task Force, organized by the local Surfrider Chapter in Coos Bay, for nearly 15 years. Maintaining our coastal waters within the safe tolerances required by federal law for fecal coliform and other bacterial contaminants is crucial to the well-being of our community, particularly for surfers and beachgoers. Our local beaches experience heavy use year-round, especially in the summer, making water quality a top priority.

Exempting a single industry from established effluent standards sets a dangerous precedent for further deregulation, potentially leading to increased pollution of our waters and air. As currently written, this bill is incompatible with federal law and would be unenforceable in Oregon.

Additionally, as the owner of two restaurants that prominently feature locally caught seafood, I strongly support our local fishing industry and understand the challenges that over-regulation can impose on struggling businesses. However, I believe we must find ways to support our fisheries without compromising the health and safety of our coastal waters. Sustainable regulations protect both our environment and the long-term viability of our seafood industry.

Sincerely,
Anne Pollard
Local Business Owner
Coos Bay, OR