



March 26, 2025

**RE: SB 5502**

Co-Chair Frederick, Co-Chair Levy, Co-Chair Emerson, and Members of the Joint Subcommittee on Natural Resources:

I submit these comments on behalf of the Oregon Trawl Commission (OTC). OTC is a fishermen-funded state commodity commission, operating under the regulatory umbrella of the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). OTC represents Oregon trawl fishermen, participating in the Oregon pink shrimp, trawl groundfish, and pacific whiting fisheries. Collectively, Oregon our fishermen land close to 250 million pounds of sustainable seafood across Oregon seafood processors' docks each year, generating ~\$60 million in fishermen's value alone.

Oregon's trawl fisheries are a model of sustainability, producing the most environmentally efficient protein, while ensuring the long-term stewardship of the resource. Our fleet is made up of independent, small, local family businesses, many of whom are multi-generational fishing operations. Our fishermen work closely with scientists and fishery regulators to maintain healthy fisheries that supply high-quality seafood both locally and internationally.

OTC is dedicated to promoting a sustainable and economically viable future for Oregon's trawl industry. ODA has become a key partner in this work. ODA's Market Access program is instrumental in helping Oregon's seafood industry expand market opportunities worldwide, connecting Oregon seafood companies with new buyers while helping drive economic growth in the Oregon coastal region. Being a valued and trusted partner for Oregon's fishing and seafood industry, ODA's continued support is vital to ensuring a more prosperous and economically sustainable future for Oregon's sustainable fisheries. The Oregon Trawl Commission fully supports SB 5502 to secure continued funding for ODA and its essential programs.

We appreciate your time and consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Yelena Nowak".

Yelena Nowak

Director, Oregon Trawl Commission

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