



February 16th 2012

RE: SB 1510

Co Chair's Bailey and Gilliam, Honorable members of the House Energy,
Environment, and Water Committee,

On behalf of Surfrider Foundation's Oregon members, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of SB 1510, the bill advancing Oregon's first system of marine reserves and marine protected areas. Surfrider Foundation is a grassroots coastal conservation organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches for all people.

Through its active chapters, volunteers, and staff, the Surfrider Foundation has been a participant in this process over many years, and we have played a very active role in the community teams that moved the recommendations forward for the areas of Cape Falcon, Cascade Head, and Cape Perpetua. These were very lengthy conversations that thoroughly reviewed important ecological, economic, and social information to broker reasonable compromises for the individual areas. This legislation specifies that the boundaries and allowances within the sites are respected, consistent with the OPAC process, which was an exercise in public vetting and collaborative effort. We are appreciative of seeing this bill honor the hard work put forward by these communities.

These three sites, once designated and coupled with the two areas that went into effect this year at Otter Rock and Redfish Rocks will be a significant step forward in Oregon's efforts to take a more ecosystem based approach to ocean management. As active participants during the management plan development phase, we are excited to continue with local efforts to foster an enhanced stewardship ethic for the long-term health of these iconic areas and advance marine research in Oregon.

Many hours of hard work have gone into getting these recommendations to this point, please join us in supporting SB 1510 to further advance this effort and provide the lasting protection of these special places that they deserve.

Sincerely,

Gus Gates
Oregon Policy Manager
Surfrider Foundation