

90156 Cape Arago Hwy
Coos Bay OR 97420
February 16, 2012

The Honorable Jules Bailey
Chairs House Committee on Energy, Environment and Water
900 Court St. NE, H-274
Salem, OR 97301
rep.julesbailey@state.or.us

MEASURE: SB 1510
EXHIBIT: 10
2012 SESSION H ENERGY, ENV. & WATER
DATE: 2-16-12 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: Allen Solomon

Dear Chair Bailey and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Allen M. Solomon, Ph.D., and I support SB1510.

SB 1510 responds to the work of the Marine Reserve Community Teams.

Designating marine reserve sites at Cape Falcon, Cascade Head and Cape Perpetua is appropriate after over 25,000 volunteer hours were spent evaluating the ecological, social and economic uses of some of Oregon's most ecologically important areas.

As a resident of the Oregon Shore (my home is on Cape Arago Highway, Coos Bay, about 300 yards from the ocean), I consider that the health of our near-shore ocean is of great importance. Today, as my dog and I walked the mile of Bastendorff Beach in front of my house, I again saw the increased erosion of the foredune, from ever larger storms (average storm waves have increased from 30 ft to 40 ft in the past 40 years) and the concomitant loss of beach sands. The foredune, 14-16 ft above mean high tide in 1994, now has gaps as low as 5 ft above mean high tide, hardly a barrier to those storm waves. It used to protect homes and businesses like the Oceanside RV Park next to Bastendorff Beach, which is now likely to become inundated in the near future with each big winter storm. In short, the ocean is changing, and its impacts on our use of the Oregon beaches and its marine ecosystems are changing as well. It is critical that we set aside a portion of that near-shore ocean to monitor, understand, and respond to those changes with science-based management decisions.

We all benefit from a productive and more sustainably managed ocean – now and in the future. Please join me in supporting SB 1510.

Sincerely,

Allen M. Solomon, Ph.D.

CC. Senator Verger, sen.joanneverger@state.or.us
CC. Representative Roblan, arnieroblan@state.or.us