



February 16, 2012

Honorable Co-Chairs Jules Bailey and Vic Gilliam
Members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Co-Chairs Jules Bailey and Vic Gilliam; Honorable Members of the House Committee on Energy, Environment and Water,

SB1510 comes to this committee as a result of great bi-partisan, bi-cameral leadership. We would like to take this time to call attention to the good work of Coastal Caucus Chair Jeff Kruse, Senator Betsy Johnson and members of the Coastal Caucus for their attention and consideration as they drafted SB 1510. With the passage of SB 1510, the statewide community-driven process of 2010 will be honored and the state will have an initial system of marine reserve sites, providing greater protection to some of the most ecologically important areas in Oregon's state waters.

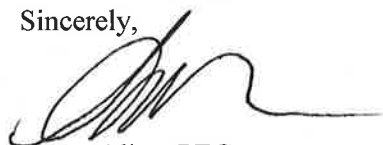
Our Ocean and the over 250,000 endorsing members urge you to support Oregon's marine reserve process and the December 2010 OPAC recommended sites because they represent a suite of protections that both preserve critical habitat in no-take reserves and allow sustainable practices in the adjacent marine protected areas that surround each core reserve. Beyond each site's size and boundaries being based on the best available science and economic data, they also reflect extensive stakeholder input and difficult compromises made throughout a process that has spanned over a decade.

As the state implements these sites, they will become areas that will better inform policy development and will assist in our understanding of Oregon's largest natural resource, the Territorial Sea. We look forward to potential partnership as the state and communities to move into this exciting next phase.

We know that a plan for creating marine protected areas and reserves is most effective when it considers the needs of the whole state—the ocean users, the businesses and organizations that depend on a healthy ocean, and the plants and animals that live in and around our waters. The Oregon marine reserve planning process embodies this approach and represents a good way of informing public policy.

Oregon's Territorial Sea is managed in the public trust, and we believe this process has developed meaningful outcomes beyond the boundaries of the marine reserve proposals. Stakeholders from different regions and perspectives have shared in deliberative dialogue and forged professional relationships that can only make our state stronger and better able to address other potential issues of mutual concern. Please join us in supporting SB 1510, a prudent plan for a more sustainable Oregon ocean whose health supports coastal communities and the state as a whole.

Sincerely,



Susan Allen, PEG
Director, Our Ocean

4189 SE Division St.
Portland, OR 97202

1628 North Coast Highway
Newport, OR 97365

503.231.2718 **p**
503.230.0903 **f**

www.ouroregonocean.org

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