

Submitter: Paul Engelmeyer

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and  
Water

Measure: HB2903

The Honorable Ken Helm, Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Oregon State Legislature

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee

I welcome this opportunity to give testimony to you this afternoon concerning my support for HB 2903

I have been totally engaged in this ocean conservation issue since the very beginning - during my time as the conservation representative on the Ocean Policy Advisory Council, and now working at local scale - Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve and Seabird Protected Area.

It is difficult for me to believe it has been over a decade since the designations were made and at the local level our Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve/MPA and Seabird Protected Areas were established. We have worked thru the process and have since secured support at multiple scales. Reviewing the ODFW Synthesis Report and the Cape Perpetua 8 year monitoring report is very impressive. Our community team is moving forward with the formation of a CP Collaborative - which includes the CP Visitor/Siuslaw NF, USFWS, Heceta Head as well as private businesses. Our community science efforts include a range of opportunities for students as well as general public - and there has been long term monitoring at the site by PISCO for 20 years and MARINE that provides a historical baseline for understanding changes in the nearshore rocky habitat. The uplands which include Cummins and Rock Creek Wilderness as well as the nearshore has been designated as a Globally Significant Important Bird Area for the ESA listed Marbled Murrelet. This area now includes the CP MR/MPA/Seabird Protected Area.

I am totally grateful for the partnerships that are forming and the community engagement efforts up and down the coast at all of the MR sites. I have been fortunate to share ocean conservation issues as well as land - sea connectivity efforts with the public and students for over 25 years. And now with ODFW's Synthesis Report and their engagement efforts the public awareness and appreciation continues to grow.

In my presentations I make sure to share information about Oregon's statewide planning goals - in particular Goal 19 ( Protecting Marine Biodiversity for current and future generations) and Goal 1 - (Citizen Engagement) - While there is much work to do on a variety of very challenging issues like Ocean Acidification, Harmful Algal Blooms, and Sea star Wasting disease(SSWD) monitoring - having these established long-term monitoring sites as research reference areas is incredibly valuable now and into future.

Finally, I would like to offer an invitation to you or your your staff a site visit to Cape Perpetua MR at some point in the future. I would enjoy sharing our efforts and partnerships with you all. I urge support for HB 2903.

Thank you for your commitment to ocean conservation strategies. If you have any questions do not hesitate to call.

Paul Engelmeyer  
Portland Audubn Society  
Ten Mile Creek Sanctuary  
541-547-4227  
pengelmeyer@peak.org