

Submitter: Dave Lacey

On Behalf Of: South Coast Tours

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

Measure: HB4132

Hello Oregon Legislature, my business South Coast Tours takes locals and visitors into Oregon's amazing coastal playground for unforgettable experiences. These experiences are memorable and support connections with Oregon and nature in general. One of the most visited locations is the Redfish Rocks Marine Reserve where we take charter trips to show and tell what Oregon's marine reserves are and how they are managed for the greater good. We also are a platform for research contracts with OSU, U of O, ODFW, and other non-profits. These contracts add income to our offerings and would not exist without the reserve designations.

We support a full marine reserve program and do not want to see the program whittled away. I've always thought there should be more funding and staff to do even more great work. I also believe the program has been underfunded for years and to keep reducing it would be a shame. Comparably, the program receives little funding compared to land based efforts and freshwater work so please build the program, don't reduce it.

We are happy to take any elected officials out there to see it with their own eyes. Doing so would surely ensure that the marine reserve program would be better funded. Please feel free to reach out with any questions about our work with ODFW or for any inquiries you may have.