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2/5/24

Hon. Representative David Gomburg
Oregon House of Representatives

Re: HB 4132

Dear Representative Gomburg,

I was the senior author of the report "2022 Assessment of Oregon's Marine Reserves" which we submitted to the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (OPAC) in August 2022. That university-led assessment of the Oregon Marine Reserves Program had been mandated by Senate Bill 1510. I am a marine ecologist who has studied the science of marine reserves and provided expert guidance on reserve design and management for the past 15 years, and my coauthors have expertise in various aspects of the ecological and socioeconomic aspects of marine reserves.

In compiling our report, we followed the guidance from the state legislation and executive orders enacting the Marine Reserves, as well as the evaluation framework established by OPAC.

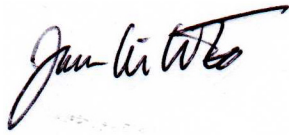
The key finding of our report was that the Oregon Marine Reserves program had been designed, implemented, and managed consistent with the goals and objectives of the enabling legislation. Our report made several technical recommendations for ODFW's continuing management of the Marine Reserves.

In our report we also made recommendations for legislative action. These are found in detail in our report, but in brief were to a) allocate funding to ODFW to enable the continued monitoring and management of the Marine Reserves program, including monitoring effects on people and communities; b) mandate that ODFW should develop an Adaptive Management Plan for the Marine Reserves; and c) define a process and set of priorities by which socioeconomic information could be used to affect policy decisions surrounding the Marine Reserves. These recommendations follow from our understanding of current best practices for marine reserve management and governance, and present the best way for Oregon's Marine Reserves program to meet the goals and objectives set forth in the original legislation. The final point is particularly important because ODFW has documented numerous positive, negative, and neutral effects of the Marine Reserves on different communities and individuals within Oregon, but there is no legislative guidance for how

those effects should be considered in management decisions. All of our recommendations were endorsed by OPAC and they appear in the text of HB 4132.

My coauthors and I are happy to answer any questions regarding our recommendations or the ecological and social science of Marine Reserves.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Wilson White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

J. Wilson White
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