



COAST RANGE  
ASSOCIATION

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February 6, 2024

To: Representative Ken Helm, Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

**RE: Support House Bill 4132, Oregon Marine Reserve Program**

Dear Chair Helm and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Coast Range Association, I submit this testimony in support of HB 4132. Oregon's Marine Reserves Program has been a tremendous success story, and we urge the Legislature to enshrine and strengthen that success by the passage of HB 4132.

We at the Coast Range Association are focused on initiatives that uplift both the economy *and* the ecology of Western Oregon and our near-shore marine habitats. By preserving critical habitat for conservation and research while also contributing hundreds of thousands of dollars to coastal economies, the Marine Reserves Program exemplifies that ethos.

We are grateful to see that HB 4132 has the bipartisan support of the entire coastal caucus. It is vitally important that the legislature uphold and strengthen bipartisan commitments in support of economies and the ecology. Research dollars spent locally help restore trust in state programs. Local communities across the length of the coast came together to support Marine Reserves, and they deserve the continued and consistent investment of a fully funded Marine Reserve Program.

We understand that the Legislature is looking at a difficult budget this session, and that hard choices will have to be made. Passage of HB 4132 and a fully funded Marine Reserves Program is not one of those choices. The Marine Reserves Program requires consistent investment, and in return pays manyfold dividends through vital scientific research, strengthened rural economies, and long-term ocean health.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your commitment to public service. Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Gaskill".

Michael Gaskill  
Marine Programs Director,  
Coast Range Association  
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