



The Climate Reality Project[®]

PORTLAND CHAPTER

Chair Helm, Vice-Chairs Hartman and Owens, and Members Boice, Gamba, Levy, Marsh, McLain, and Scharf,

The Portland Chapter of the Climate Reality Project is writing in favor of HB 4132, which will support implementation of the recommendations of the 10-year review of the Oregon Marine Reserve Program.

Oregon's marine reserve "system," made up of five nearshore ocean sites, stewarded to promote marine conservation and science in ways complementary to economic, cultural, and recreational ocean and shoreline activities. The program's dual focus on Oregon coastal ecosystems science and the social, economic, and cultural dynamics of coastal communities is wise. It has created short term benefits that are popular among fishermen and coastal communities as well as knowledge important for adaptation and stewarding ocean resources in the long term.

As climate change and pollution continue to impact our oceans, it is ever more important that Oregon provide appropriate funding for marine reserve *management*, ocean science *research*, and *engagement* with communities including federally recognized Indian tribes, and commercial and recreational fishing fleets. We are particularly encouraged by the language in HB 4132 that recognizes that coastal communities and scientists both benefit by learning from each other— "ensure that marine reserve science is useful to communities and that the department incorporates community and fishermen knowledge into ongoing research and monitoring efforts."

The value of protecting Oregon's coast and ocean areas is a key part of Oregon's Statewide Planning Goals (Goal 19). Please pass HB 4132 as a renewal of that commitment.

Thank you,

Helena Birecki
Legislative Committee Member
Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter

About The Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter

The Climate Reality Project, Portland Chapter is a local, volunteer-led group affiliated with the international non-profit The Climate Reality Project founded by climate leader and former US Vice President Al Gore, whose mission is to catalyze a global solution to the climate crisis by making urgent action a necessity across every sector of society. With a global movement more than 5 million strong and a grassroots network of trained Climate Reality Leader activists, we're spreading the truth about the climate crisis and building popular support for clean energy solutions.

For more information, visit the Portland Chapter at <https://climaterealitypdx.com/>, and the Climate Reality Project at www.climaterealityproject.org.