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## State Senator Kayse Jama

Senate District 24 (D-East Portland, Damascus, Boring)

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Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Hartman and Owens, and Members of the House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water.

I write to you in support of HB 4132, which would implement an adaptive management program for Oregon's Marine Reserves. The Reserves were established in 2012 with the goal of protecting key coastal habitats and expanding scientific research opportunities in our oceans. Since their inception, marine reserves have contributed to a better understanding of ecological changes on the coast and their subsequent impact on our state's climate, livability, and economy. These areas serve as important education sites—enabling both researchers and members of the general public to engage in up-close ocean conservation efforts. As we contend with the various impacts of the impending climate crisis, understanding the changes in our coastal ecosystem is essential to building climate resilience in our public policy and our private lives.

In 2022, the Ocean Policy Advisory Council released a set of recommendations for the future management of Oregon's marine reserves, based on a ten-year review conducted by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The recommendations include the development of specific, measurable objectives for monitoring and research, improved assessment of ecological disturbances, and increased stakeholder participation by tribes and coastal fishing communities.

HB 4132 would create a more robust and responsive marine reserves program by fully implementing these recommendations. If passed, it will deepen our understanding of how climate change impacts our ocean and ensure that marine reserves continue to benefit all Oregonians.

We cannot miss this critical opportunity to improve the management and conservation of our coastal ecosystems. Even though I represent a district approximately 100 miles from the coast, I have signed on as a Chief Sponsor of this bill because I understand that a protected, resilient ocean is an essential asset in the face of a changing climate. Improved social monitoring and comprehensive management of marine reserves will directly benefit the ecological well-being of my district and our entire state.

I strongly urge you to vote yes on HB 4132 to ensure the continued success of our state's largest ocean conservation program.