



To: House Committee on Ag. Natural Resources, Land Use, and Water  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, Oregon

February 07, 2024

**Re: Testimony in support of HB 4132 - Marine Reserves**

Testimony Submitted On behalf of all the OCN Member Organizations:

1000 Friends of Oregon, Association of Oregon Recyclers, Audubon Society of Portland, Beyond Toxics, Cascadia Wildlands, Center for Biological Diversity, Center for Food Safety, Central Oregon LandWatch, Climate Solutions, Defenders of Wildlife, Deschutes River Alliance, Engineers for a Sustainable Future, The Environmental Center, Environment Oregon, Food & Water Watch, Friends of Mount Hood, Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Friends of Family Farmers, Greater Hells Canyon Council, League of Women Voters of Oregon, Native Fish Society, Neighbors for Clean Air, Oceana, Oregon Coast Alliance, Oregon Environmental Council, Oregon Land and Water Alliance, Oregon League of Conservation Voters, Oregon Natural Desert Association, Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, Oregon Wild, Renewable Northwest, Rogue Riverkeeper, Sierra Club Oregon Chapter, The Street Trust, Surfrider Foundation, Trout Unlimited, Tualatin Riverkeepers, WaterWatch of Oregon, The Wetlands Conservancy, Wild Salmon Center, Willamette Riverkeeper

Dear Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Hartman and Owens, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer input on HB 4132. On behalf of our tens of thousands of members and supporters across the state of Oregon, we would like to register the Oregon League of Conservation Voters (OLCV), and the Oregon Conservation Network's (OCN) strong support for passing the Marine Reserves bill (HB 4132). The OCN is coordinated through the OLCV and is a network of over 40 not-for-profit organizations throughout the state, united to advocate for pro-conservation legislation and to fight policies that threaten our state's natural legacy. **Every year OCN selects Priorities for a Healthy Oregon, and this year the Marine Reserves Program bill is one of those priorities.**

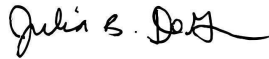
Today, we are asking for your support for Marine Reserves (HB 4132), which builds upon the recommendations of a 10-year review conducted by Oregon State University based on the best available science. This bill calls upon ODFW to develop an adaptive management plan for Oregon's five marine reserves, assess the capacity of these reserves to enhance ecological resilience to environmental disturbances, create measurable metrics and indicators, and enhance outreach and

engagement activities. HB 4132 also directs ODFW to work with communities, including commercial and recreational fishing fleets, to ensure the science derived from the marine reserves is useful and incorporates local knowledge.

All Oregonians are inextricably linked to the coast and marine areas—we collectively benefit from the robust fisheries, tourism, natural beauty, and benefits to climate resilience. I don't know anyone who lives in this state who doesn't love Oregon's oceans. When we collectively passed legislation over 10 years ago to establish these five marine reserves there were doubts from those who opposed it about the benefits of having protected marine habitats off the coast of Oregon. A decade later they have proven to be invaluable to coastal communities, and the entire state. Let's make sure the program has the resources it needs to continue successfully.

HB 4132 is critical to the future success of the Marine Reserve program, ensuring that the investments and scientific knowledge gained from these marine reserves is used to improve ocean management and continue to educate and inspire Oregonians and our coastal visitors. We thank Chair Helm and the members of this committee for your leadership and steadfast dedication to this critical issue and urge you to move this bill forward this session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julia B. DeGraw". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julia B. DeGraw

Coalition Director

Oregon Conservation Network, and Oregon League of Conservation Voters