



350PDX
3625 N. Mississippi Avenue
Portland, OR 97227
350pdx.org

February 6, 2024

Dear Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Hartman and Owens, and House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB 4132 to continue supporting the Marine Reserves Program. I serve as the climate policy manager at 350PDX, a grassroots environmental nonprofit with thousands of members in the Portland area, advocating for climate justice.

We strongly support this bipartisan effort to maintain funding so the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife can continue its important work to conserve our state's incredible coastal ecosystems. As Oregonians, we love spending time at the beach and experiencing the awe and wonder of encountering the ocean, observing each intricate shell, and coming face to face with sea creatures large and small. The Oregon coast offers unmatched beauty, tourism and other economic benefits, and important ecosystem services that maintain our state's health and moderate climate.

The ocean is an essential system in maintaining Earth's current climate, helping regulate water cycles and offering nutrient cycling and photosynthesis to absorb carbon dioxide. Keeping our oceans healthy helps mitigate impacts of climate change, but the more greenhouse gas emissions we put into the atmosphere, the more difficult it is for the ocean to maintain functional ecosystems as the water warms. In addition to other climate change mitigation measures through other policies at every level of government, doing as much as we can to protect the health of our marine ecosystems is an essential piece of addressing climate change. This bill will help aid in maintaining a healthy planetary community, which allows the continued thriving of our state's social and economic systems that rely on tourism, fishing, and so forth. We urge you to support HB 4132 and allocate \$1.2 million to ODFW to continue the Marine Reserves Program through the next biennium.

Cherice Bock
Climate Policy Manager
350PDX

Building the climate justice movement.