



Disability
Rights
Oregon

TO: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
FROM: Ben Gurewitz
DATE: January 29, 2025
RE: HB 2163 - Support

Chair Helm, Vice-Chairs Owen and McDonald, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ben Gurewitz, I am speaking on behalf of Disability Rights Oregon and pleased to offer testimony in strong support of HB 2163. Disability Rights Oregon is the State's Protection and Advocacy System. We are authorized by Congress to protect, advocate, and enforce the rights of People with Disabilities. We are tasked with advancing policies that ensure that Oregonians with Disabilities can, live, work, and play in the least restrictive environment and that they can reach their fullest potential.

Razor clamming is certainly no exception. Currently, the law restricts individuals from receiving any assistance while clamming or fishing. Friends, family or

current law does not allow individuals with special needs to receive any assistance, even from family, while clamming or fishing. If a parent or friend does provide assistance, they can face penalties and fines. Based on my personal experience, current law has stopped families from getting outdoors to go clamming and fishing.

Conclusion

Do not forget to write your conclusion here.

About Disability Rights Oregon

Since 1977 Disability Rights Oregon has been the State's Protection and Advocacy System.¹ We are authorized by Congress to protect, advocate, and enforce the rights of people with disabilities under the U.S. Constitution and Federal and State laws, investigate abuse and neglect of people with disabilities, and "pursue administrative, legal, and other appropriate

¹ See ORS 192.517.

remedies".² We are also mandated to "educate policymakers" on matters related to people with disabilities.³

If you have any questions regarding DRO's position on this legislation, please call Ben Gurewitz at 971-806-7908 or email him at bgurewitz@droregon.org.

² See 42 U.S.C. § 15041 et seq; 42 U.S.C. § 10801 et seq.

³ See 42 U.S. Code § 15043(a)(2)(L).