

Submitter: Gina Mayonado

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3587

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3587, the Rocky Habitat Stewardship Bill. Oregon's rocky habitats, such as Haystack Rock and Coquille Point, are not only iconic landmarks but are also vital to the health of our marine ecosystems and coastal communities. These areas are biologically, culturally, and economically significant, supporting a rich diversity of marine life and providing numerous benefits to Oregonians.

These rocky habitats serve as essential nesting sites for millions of seabirds, including species like the Tufted Puffin and Common Murre, which rely on these areas for safe breeding grounds. They also support marine mammals, kelp beds, fish populations, and invertebrates, creating a dynamic and interconnected ecosystem. Furthermore, these habitats are a draw for millions of recreational visitors each year, contributing to Oregon's robust \$2+ billion tourism industry, which depends on the beauty and biodiversity of our coastal environment.

However, these habitats are facing increasing threats from disturbances, including human activities and the impacts of climate change. The loss of these critical habitats would not only harm marine life but would also have lasting negative effects on our coastal economy and the cultural heritage tied to these areas.

Passing HB 3587 is a crucial step in ensuring the long-term protection of these valuable sites. The bill provides for needed agency coordination to manage these areas effectively, bringing together the necessary stakeholders to create and implement sustainable management plans. Additionally, it establishes a grants program to support community stewardship, empowering local organizations and residents to take an active role in the conservation of these sites.

This collaborative and proactive approach is essential for safeguarding Oregon's rocky habitats for future generations. I strongly urge you to support HB 3587 to ensure that our coastal ecosystems, marine life, and local economies continue to thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration.