

Submitter: Caroline Skinner

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3587

I support Rocky Habitat Stewardship Bill (HB 3587) and Eelgrass Action Bill (HB 3580), which collectively work to improve the management of critical coastal habitats. Both eelgrass meadows and rocky habitats play an important role in bolstering marine biodiversity and supporting resilient communities—and they need your help!

Why I Support Rocky Habitat Stewardship Bill (HB 3587): Oregon’s iconic rocky habitats—places like Haystack Rock and Coquille Point—are biologically, culturally, and economically important. They support a wealth of marine life including millions of nesting seabirds like Tufted Puffins and Common Murre. They also support marine mammals, kelp beds, fish, and invertebrate species. They attract millions of recreational visitors, helping support a 2+ billion dollar tourism industry. However, rocky habitats are increasingly vulnerable to disturbance and climate impacts. Passing this bill would provide needed agency coordination to manage these sites and a grants program to support community stewardship to ensure rocky habitat sites are protected. This protection is important to me, and I urge your support for a healthier environment.