

Submitter: Lloyd Vivola

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3580

Eelgrass is integral to the health of Oregon's coastal habitat and wildlife. Just why Oregon's eelgrass continues to struggle and is in decline escapes full understanding. Appropriate action is imperative, not least of all when faced with the unpredictable impact of climate disruption and warming oceans. As our First Nation neighbors and friends have known and practiced for ages: true ecological health and abundance depends on honoring all our relations, human and non-human, and coordinating responsibility among our diverse communities. HB 3580 will do just that by establishing an eelgrass Taskforce to assess policy barriers, evaluate monitoring programs, and enhance collaborative efforts among government agencies, scientists, Tribes and local communities. The biodiversity and connectivity intrinsic to our iconic Oregon coast are too valuable – and perhaps, more fragile than we imagine – not to address the continued good health of our eelgrass communities. That said, I urge you to pass HB 3580.