

Submitter: Robert Kroll

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3587

Dear Co-chair Helm, Co-chair Owens and members of the committee,
My name is Robert Kroll. I am a retired veterinarian living full-time in Cannon Beach and I spend time in volunteer activities that include monitoring of black oystercatcher nests for Bird Alliance of Oregon, photographing shorebirds and marine life (such as Tufted Puffins, Black Oystercatchers, Pidgeon Guillemots, Sea Stars, Nudibranchs, Urchins, etc.) that I donate to non-profits that support animals and the environment, and sharing my enthusiasm for and knowledge of the Rocky Habitat with visitors to our Northern Oregon Coast. I am writing to ask that you please support HB HB 3587, and our invaluable rocky habitats. This bill offers a great opportunity to support biodiversity, coastal economies, and increase resilience to a changing climate. Oregon's rocky habitats, like Haystack Rock and Coquille Point, are iconic tourist destinations for millions of visitors. They are also incredibly important for millions of nesting birds, marine mammals, fish and invertebrates. Increasing climate impacts and human disturbance are threatening these special places. The steadily declining numbers of nesting Tufted Puffins on Haystack Rock should serve as a glaring example of why our rocky habitats are in need of additional protection. HB 3587 would provide needed agency coordination to better protect these sites. It also would set up a grant fund for local communities to engage the public on best practices to enjoy these places while minimizing disturbance to sensitive wildlife and habitats. Now is the time to act to protect our coastal ecosystems. For a modest investment we can ensure that Oregon's rocky habitats can be conserved for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Kroll, DVM, MS