

Submitter: Alyson Berman

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,

I am writing to ask that you please support HB 3587. Oregon's rocky shores make up 40% of our coastline, including major tourist destinations like Haystack Rock and Coquille Point. They bring in massive revenue for coastal communities and the broader state. Despite being an Oregonian, I'm also a tourist. I go to the coast many times each year, specifically to visit our rocky habitats and go tide pooling. The animals that depend on our tidepools and rocky habitats are incredible from tufted puffins to thick horned nudibranchs to ochre sea stars. A single rocky habitat can support more than a billion lives. Both our wildlife and our coastal communities depend on our rocky habitats. And we need you to help protect them. 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 both eelgrass meadows and rocky habitats can be conserved for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Alyson Berman