

Submitter: Erin Miller

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3580

Dear Co-chair Helm, Co-chair Owens and members of the committee,

I am writing to ask for your support for HB 3580 and HB 3587 to protect Oregon's coastal habitats. These bills will help safeguard eelgrass meadows and rocky habitats, which are vital for biodiversity, fisheries, and coastal resilience.

Eelgrass meadows are essential carbon sinks and nursery habitats for fish, but they are in decline. HB 3580 would create a task force to set conservation targets and prevent further loss.

Oregon's rocky habitats, like Haystack Rock, support wildlife and tourism but face increasing threats. HB 3587 would improve agency coordination and fund local efforts to protect these areas while educating visitors on responsible recreation.

A modest investment now will help ensure these critical ecosystems are protected for future generations. I urge you to support these important bills.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Erin