

Submitter: Chris Dodge

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3587

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 3587, which aims to protect Oregon's iconic rocky habitats, such as Haystack Rock and Coquille Point. These habitats are vital not only to our environment but also to the cultural and economic fabric of our state. I grew up in Oregon and visited these incredible coastal treasures countless times and we need to do everything we can to protect them.

These rocky habitats are biologically rich, supporting an array of marine life, including millions of nesting seabirds like Tufted Puffins and Common Murre. They also serve as important habitats for marine mammals, kelp beds, fish, and invertebrates, creating a thriving ecosystem that benefits both wildlife and local communities. Beyond their biological significance, these sites hold cultural value for Oregonians and contribute greatly to our economy. In fact, the tourism industry, driven in large part by visits to these stunning coastal sites, generates over \$2 billion annually.

However, these habitats are increasingly vulnerable to disturbances and the impacts of climate change. The passage of HB 3587 would help to address these challenges by providing critical agency coordination for managing these unique sites. Additionally, the bill includes a grants program that would support community stewardship efforts, ensuring that we have the resources and support needed to protect and preserve these habitats for generations to come.

I strongly urge you to support HB 3587 to safeguard these irreplaceable resources. The protection of our rocky habitats is essential to maintaining Oregon's natural beauty, biodiversity, and economic vitality. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

~Chris Dodge