

Submitter: Dulce Havill

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 3580 and HB 3587 to protect our rocky habitats and eelgrass meadows. These bills support biodiversity, coastal economies, and increase resilience to a changing climate.

Oregon's underwater eelgrass meadows are biodiversity hotspots, carbon sinks, and nursery habitat to many juvenile fish species. Their health is vital for sustaining our fisheries, maintaining water quality, and buffering against climate impacts.

Oregon's rocky habitats are incredibly important for millions of nesting birds, marine mammals, fish and invertebrates. These places are also important for those of us who live on the Oregon coast and the visitors who come here. A healthy ecosystem means healthy and happy people. There is nothing like a walk on the beach and looking at a tide pool or a rock full of nesting birds to shed stress and bring happiness to the mind. 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,

Dulce Havill and Chuck Klemer
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