



Oregon Zoo
Together for Wildlife

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March 4, 2025

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support for HB 3587

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice Chair McDonald, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Oregon Zoo and our supporters, I strongly support HB 3587, the *Rocky Habitat Stewardship* bill, which will protect one of our states most iconic and important ecosystems.

Rocky habitats provide a transformative window into an otherwise invisible marine world. When children and adults crouch down at a tidepool and peer into these miniature universes teeming with sea stars, anemones and crabs, they experience a moment of wonder that can spark a lifelong dedication to conservation.

These habitats also provide vital sanctuary for nesting seabirds, marine mammals, fish, and invertebrates, and form the foundation of ecosystems that sustain commercially important species. Rocky habitats also face unprecedented challenges from warming oceans and increasing human impact.

HB 3587 represents a strategic response to these threats, proposing enhanced agency coordination and establishing a grant fund to help visitors enjoy these habitats responsibly. At this pivotal moment for Oregon's coastal ecosystems and economy, supporting HB 3587 will ensure these extraordinary habitats remain vibrant and resilient for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Shervin Hess
Conservation Manager
Oregon Zoo