



March 4, 2025

Representatives Ken Helm and Mark Owens, Co-Chairs
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Oregon Legislature

Re: Environment Oregon supports House Bill 3587

Co-chairs Helm, Owens and Members of the Committee,

Environment Oregon is a policy and action group with one mission: to restore and protect the natural world. Our staff works for clean air, clean water, clean energy, wildlife, open spaces and a livable climate. Our members across the state put grassroots support behind our research and advocacy.

We support [House Bill 3587](#) as a critical way to improve the way Oregon manages rocky habitat ecosystems along our coast.

Oregon's rocky habitats provide an idyllic image of the sea. [Rocky cliffs](#), tidepools and offshore islands encompass a significant portion of our over 300 miles of coast. These habitats support countless marine species such as sea stars, anemones, urchins and millions of nesting seabirds. To support wildlife, it's essential that they are healthy.

Aside from habitat, these landscapes provide many Oregonians the chance to recreate, educate themselves and learn about the wonders of the ocean. However, Oregon's rocky habitats face growing threats, including degradation from human activity, pollution, climate change and ocean acidification.

To date, there's [nearly 30](#) rocky habitat sites managed under Oregon's Rocky Habitat Management Strategy. Many of these sites were community nominated as special places worthy of protection. However, there is not enough funding within the Strategy or enough state agency capacity to best support these areas. If passed, [House Bill 3587](#) would increase capacity at the Department of Land Conservation and Development to coordinate and engage with local communities, as well as support a small grants program for community led conservation efforts necessary to ensure these habitats are resilient in the face of stressors.

We urge the Oregon Legislature to take action and pass [House Bill 3587](#) to bolster our rocky habitats.

Sincerely,

Ian Giancarlo
Oceans Advocate
Environment Oregon