

Submitter: Jay Withgott

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3587

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, and Committee members:

I write to urge your support for HB 3587. This bill will help conserve one of Oregon's most important coastal habitats for biodiversity and fisheries, while supporting tourism, recreation, and coastal economies.

Rocky intertidal habitats are some of the most biodiverse and productive natural systems on earth, and here in Oregon we are blessed with valuable and beautiful stretches of this key habitat. Rocky shorelines rich with invertebrate life provide resources for birds, mammals, and the juvenile fish that maintain commercial fisheries. They also allow for tourism and recreation including tidepooling and fishing. As a scientist and naturalist who regularly spends low tides exploring these areas, I can't begin to tell you the number of people I've met over the years who have been touched by the wonders of these areas — including children whose lives have been enriched by tidepool exploration and out-of-state visitors who marvel at what we are blessed with here in Oregon. Amid challenges to these habitats from climate impacts and increased visitation, the modest investment that HB 3587 puts forth will be key in helping to conserve coastal resources while supporting responsible well-managed recreation.

HB 3587, together with HB 3580 on eelgrass meadows, offer effective means to protect and restore biodiversity, keep our shorelines healthy, and support coastal economies.

Thank you for your support.

Jay Withgott
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