

Submitter: Phyllis Thompson

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3580

I write in enthusiastic SUPPORT of HB 3580 Eelgrass Action Bill.

I live on Nehalem Bay and see first-hand how valuable eelgrass is, both to animals and humans. All our marshlands, including eelgrass meadows, are excellent carbon containers in a time when we need to get carbon out of the air for everyone's long-term health.

Eelgrass, in particular, is a wonderful nursery for baby crabs, salmon, and other fish. The fishing boats that I see at night offshore rely on the bay's rich habitat for their catches. The recreational salmon fishers who flock to Nehalem Bay and River also count on the health and richness of this habitat.

HB 3580's plan to support and monitor eelgrass habitats is an important investment in the long-term future of Oregon's healthy bays.