

Submitter: Karen Funk

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3580

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. Our rocky habitats and eelgrass meadows are critical for our salmon, water birds, Dungeness crabs, oysters, fish and of course our coastal communities.

There are signs that eelgrass is declining in Coos Bay and Yaquina Bay. We don't know the status in Oregon due to not enough monitoring. And, of course, warming waters, pollution, development and invasive species are threatening the eelgrass. We need HB 3580 to setup a Taskforce so we will proactively prevent the habitat loss that is so vital to our communities and wildlife.

Our rocky habitats make Oregon a spectacular tourist destination which brings money to our local communities throughout the state. The rocky habitats are important for nesting birds, marine mammals and fish. Visit Cape Perpetua or Coquille Point and you will be amazed with how our rocky shores are alive with wildlife and how it captivates the tourists who visit our state, as well as the locals that cherish these areas. We need HB 3587 to protect these sites.

Please support these bills and help Oregon continue to be the great state that we are!!!

Sincerely,
Karen Funk