

Submitter: Heather Motil

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3580

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my heartfelt support for HB 3580 and HB 3587, which aim to safeguard Oregon's coastal treasures: eelgrass meadows and rocky habitats. These remarkable ecosystems are more than just natural wonders; they are lifelines that weave together biodiversity, coastal livelihoods, and the resilience of our planet. Spanning hundreds of miles, Oregon's breathtaking coastline is a haven for countless wildlife species. From the vibrant marine ecosystems near Newport and Lincoln City to the iconic rocky shores of Cannon Beach and beyond, these coastal habitats are crucial for the survival of diverse species. These places are not only integral to our natural heritage but also serve as sacred sanctuaries where nature thrives in harmony.

Oregon's underwater eelgrass meadows are akin to underwater enchantments—biodiversity havens and carbon guardians that nurture marine life and sustain our fisheries. However, these vital habitats face growing threats. HB 3580 proposes a collaborative task force of communities, scientists, and Tribes to protect and conserve these meadows, ensuring their magic thrives for generations.

Similarly, Oregon's iconic rocky habitats, like Haystack Rock at Cannon Beach, are sacred sanctuaries for wildlife and beloved destinations for millions of visitors. These spaces are under increasing strain from climate impacts and human activity. HB 3587 offers an essential step forward by coordinating protection efforts and empowering communities to educate visitors on sustainable ways to enjoy these special places. I believe now is the time to act boldly. By supporting HB 3580 and HB 3587, we can nurture these ecosystems' beauty and significance, honoring them as gifts not just to Oregon, but to the world.