

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
March 5, 2025

I am writing in support of the Rocky Habitat Stewardship Bill, HB 3587

This is both easy for me to support and difficult for me to write about. I am originally a California kid (gasps of horror? dismay?) and grew up near Santa Cruz *loving* the ocean and the beach: the smell of salty, kelpy air - mixed with a little creosote, which I didn't know at the time was bad for my health; the cries of seagulls circling overhead (or maybe coming a little too close to my lunch on the beach towel.); seeing sea stars (we called them starfish then) clinging to rocks and piers at low tide; finding shells. My grandfather collected these amazing rocks that had deposits of some white substance around perfectly drilled holes. "What creature could do that, and how?" I wondered. Fast-forward many years to having a kid of my own. Still in California, my partner and I instilled our love for the ocean in our daughter. There was something to help enrich her interest and knowledge that we hadn't had: The Monterey Bay Aquarium. This world-class aquarium so generously established by Julie Packard from early tech money had been open for a few years by the time our daughter was born. We had a family membership from the time she was three.

MBA is where I gained so much knowledge of the ocean, from the estuary, through rocky intertidal and nearshore habitats, out to the pelagic, and down into the deep. I am full of emotion remembering these gorgeous exhibits and how they got me to fall even further in love. That is their mission. When people learn about the delicate beauty of coral and see sea otters swim right up to the glass munching on a bit of crab, they fall in love.

We need more people to fall in love with our Rocky Shore Habitat. Many people already love to look at tidepools, but do they know how vital this habitat is to the larger ocean ecosystem? Creating a stewardship bill and *calling it the stewardship bill* is exquisitely appropriate. Let's love and take care of what is so full of so much. Sure, the economy is strengthened by the healthy fishery, aquaculture, and tourism industries the rocky intertidal manifests. We've established eight newly designated rocky habitat sites (brilliant, I supported this, too, by submitting testimony.) Well begun, but only half done. We now need to create management plans, which HB 3587 would help to do.

There are many Oregonians, like myself, who are eager to be a part of protecting our spectacular, biologically diverse ocean habitats. The challenges are larger than what we can do locally, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't do the work! By the way, when I was a kid, my family traveled to Ashland on vacation many summers and on some of those trips we explored a little bit north along the coast. It was then I realized the rugged, wild beauty of the Oregon coast, so different from the developed coastline that I was used to. I knew it would be in my future at some point. Now, I am a volunteer Citizen Scientist with COASST (Coastal Observation And Seabird Survey Team, Univ. of Washington) and get to survey two beaches every month. It's my favorite thing I do.

Please vote in favor of the Rocky Habitat Stewardship Bill - HB 3587. Thank you for reading my testimony.

Kind regards,

Deirdre Young, Portland, OR