



March 5, 2025

Rep. Ken Helm and Rep. Mark Owens

Co-Chairs, House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Re: HB 3587 Support

Co-Chairs Ken Helm and Mark Owens and Honorable of the Committee

On behalf of the Surfrider Foundation's Oregon chapters, we strongly support HB 3587, a bill to support the stewardship and management of Oregon's rocky habitats. The Surfrider Foundation is a grassroots, nonprofit environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, waves, and beaches through a powerful activist network. In Oregon, our chapters are deeply invested in preserving the state's unique coastal ecosystems, including its rocky habitats, which are integral to the health and resilience of our marine environments. These areas, encompassing tidepools, headlands, and offshore reefs, are among the most biologically diverse and ecologically significant along our coast, supporting a wide array of marine life, including seabirds, sea stars, kelp forests, and species vital to both commercial and recreational fisheries. As coastal and ocean recreational users, these habitats are significant in providing dependable opportunities and activities from tide pooling to surfing and recreational fishing to simply finding lee from the wind on a vessel or beach.

Oregonians and visitors alike engage in various recreational activities within these rocky habitats, with tidepooling being a particularly popular pursuit. Locations such as Haystack Rock at Cannon Beach, Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area in Newport, and Cape Perpetua Scenic Area offer accessible and vibrant tidepooling experiences, allowing individuals to observe diverse marine life up close. These activities not only foster a deeper appreciation for our coastal ecosystems but also contribute significantly to the state's economy. In 2010, Oregon residents took an estimated 27 million trips to the coast, with 88% primarily for recreation, resulting in approximately \$2.4 billion in direct expenditures. Furthermore, wildlife viewing along the Oregon coast accounted for \$159 million in expenditures in 2008, underscoring the economic importance of preserving these natural habitats.

Surfrider has actively participated in the management and planning of Oregon's rocky habitats through our involvement in the Ocean Policy Advisory Council's (OPAC) Territorial Sea Planning process. As the chair of this 5-year process to update management and designate new areas of rocky habitat for protection, I can attest to the thoughtfulness and significant engagement of stakeholders, tribes, state and federal agencies that went into this effort. This collaborative effort brought together coastal communities and stakeholders to identify and designate significant rocky habitat sites for long-term stewardship and protection. Despite these designations, many sites still lack the necessary resources for effective management and conservation and the state's ability to fund these new designations was a critical discussion and concern throughout the OPAC process. **HB 3587 aims to address this gap by providing critical support for local stewardship initiatives, research, and enforcement, ensuring that these habitats remain healthy and accessible for future generations – and it does so at a bargain, building on decades of collaborative public and private partnerships.**

We urge the committee to pass HB 3587 to strengthen stewardship for Oregon's rocky habitats and invest in the long-term sustainability of these vital ecosystems. By supporting stewardship efforts,

this bill will help maintain thriving marine biodiversity, bolster Oregon's coastal economy, and uphold the legacy of community-driven ocean conservation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlie Plybon". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and contact information.

Charlie Plybon , Senior Oregon Policy Manager  
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