

Submitter: Susan Foreman P.E.

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3580

I am a licensed civil engineer specializing in water resources and wastewater treatment as a lifelong student of natural history and the environment and think that the protection of estuarine environments and associated wetlands is of paramount importance in providing resiliency to climate. Eelgrass is a vital part of the estuarine habitat providing:

1. Critical nursery habitats for a variety of commercially and culturally important species, such as Dungeness crab, salmon, herring, and rock fish
2. Sequestration and storage of carbon 35x the rate of tropical rainforests
3. Buffering from ocean acidification, and protection for sensitive fish and shellfish from low pH conditions.
4. Natural mitigation against climate hazards such as storm surges
5. Erosion reduction
6. Natural water filtration

“Please prioritize this essential coastal habitat during this legislative session by voting “Yes” on the Eelgrass Action Bill.”