

Submitter: Ginger Berryman

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3587

Dear Co-chair Helm, Co-chair Owens and members of the committee,

I am writing to ask that you please support HB 3587, and our invaluable rocky habitats and eelgrass meadows. These bills offer a great opportunity to support biodiversity, coastal economies, and increase resilience to a changing climate.

Oregon's rocky habitats, like Haystack Rock and Coquille Point, are iconic tourist destinations for millions of visitors. They are also incredibly important for millions of nesting birds, marine mammals, fish and invertebrates. Increasing climate impacts and human disturbance are threatening these special places. HB 3587 would provide needed agency coordination to better protect these sites. It also would set up a grant fund for local communities to engage the public on best practices to enjoy these places while minimizing disturbance to sensitive wildlife and habitats.

I am a small business owner in Oregon, and the coast is an important part of my business. The beauty and diversity draws people from all over the country, and even the world. I know this first hand because I am an elopement photographer. I've had clients from Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Florida, Louisiana, Kansas, British Columbia, and more, who have all reached out specifically to elope on the Oregon Coast. The health of our coast benefits all types of people, communities and businesses in ways many folks never think about.

We don't want to look back think we could have done more to protect our coast. I recently read a quote that hit home for me... I do not remember it verbatim, but the sentiment is this: in movies, people travel to the past and worry about committing some small act that'll drastically change the future, but folks never think that small acts in our present can have profound affects on our shared future.

Now is the time to act to protect our coastal ecosystems. For a modest investment we can ensure both eelgrass meadows and rocky habitats can be conserved for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Ginger Berryman