

Submitter: Emily Blackwell

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. This bill creates an important and timely opportunity to support both our coastal biodiversity and our coastal economies. This bill also supports resiliency in the face of a changing climate, as rocky habitats sequester carbon and protect our shorelines from storms.

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 marine mammals, fish and invertebrates, and nesting birds like our beloved tufted puffins. Increasing climate impacts and human disturbance are threatening these special places. With exponentially increasing visitation to our tidepools, it is more important than ever to balance education about, conservation of, and recreation around rocky marine habitats. 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 believe strongly in the impact local-level initiatives like these can have in a community, by creating space for dialogues and spreading awareness about how to better steward our resources.

Please prioritize our essential coastal habitats by fully funding and supporting the Rocky Habitat Stewardship Bill. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Emily Blackwell