

Dear Rep. Gomberg and Committee Legislators,

My name is Ann Marineau and I am a retired teacher from Coos Bay. I'd like to thank you for taking up the Eelgrass Action Bill (HB 3580). As we took frequent class field trips to the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, to OIMB and even an afternoon walk to the edge of the bay, my classes and I were aware of the importance of eelgrass. Many of my students were children of fishermen, dependent on the giant nurseries of the coastal estuaries where juvenile fish and crab grew in the safety of their habitat - in the eelgrass.

As climate change and human interference disrupt the health of our estuaries, research on the interactions between this fragile habitat and humans are important to prevent a disruption in that habitat's food chain that would cause a decline for local businesses and tourism. Coastal communities are reliant on these rich nurseries, where eelgrass is the core player.

Full funding of HB 3580 will benefit those communities and all who come to visit the coast, so I encourage you to vote yes on this bill, and to thank you for your time and consideration.

Ann Marineau