

Submitter: Cristen Don

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3786

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB 3786, the Blue Economy Bill, which would provide critical funding to the Oregon Ocean Science Trust and the Oregon Ocean Science Fund. As a resident of Newport, Oregon, for the past 21 years and a professional in ocean science, conservation, and management for more than two decades—including 18 years with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife—I have seen firsthand the value of state-supported ocean research in informing responsible management of Oregon’s coastal resources.

Oregon’s coastal communities and industries depend on a healthy and resilient ocean, yet our marine environment is undergoing rapid change. Warming waters, increasing ocean acidification, and coastal erosion all pose significant threats to marine life, infrastructure, and the livelihoods of those who depend on the ocean. To address these challenges, we need robust, state-funded science to fill key data gaps, monitor changes, and inform sound policy decisions.

HB 3786 will ensure that Oregon has the information necessary to:

- Track and better understand the pace and scale of ocean warming and acidification, allowing policymakers and managers to take proactive steps;
- Collect nearshore data to improve our understanding of changing ocean conditions and their impacts on key species; and
- Address coastal erosion threats to property and infrastructure by filling critical data gaps.

The Oregon Ocean Science Trust has already demonstrated its ability to effectively direct state funds toward high-impact research. By investing in this work, the state can strengthen decision-making processes, safeguard biodiversity, and protect the economic and ecological health of our coast. A strong commitment to ocean science is a commitment to Oregon’s Blue Economy—ensuring that our coastal industries, communities, and ecosystems remain viable for generations to come.

I urge your support for HB 3786 to ensure that Oregon continues to lead in ocean science and coastal resilience. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Cristen Don