



## Institute for Natural Resources

Oregon State University, 234 Strand Agricultural Hall | Corvallis, Oregon 97331

Phone 541-737-9918 | Fax 541-737-1887 | <http://inr.oregonstate.edu>

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Chair Helm, Vice-Chairs Hartman and Owens, and Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3786 - the Blue Economy Bill.

House Bill 3786 will provide the science and information Oregon needs to support a healthy ocean and vibrant coastal economies by funding the Oregon Ocean Science Trust to offer competitive ocean and coastal science grants.

Changing ocean conditions put Oregon's ocean and coastal economies at risk. Investing in ocean science research helps reduce these risks to sustain coastal communities and the iconic coastal ecosystems all Oregonians enjoy.

HB 3786 will provide \$3 million in funding for ocean and coastal research and monitoring in Oregon to address:

- The risks and vulnerabilities that threaten Oregon's economy and ecosystems from changing ocean conditions, including warmer, more acidic, and less oxygenated ocean water;
- Sandy beach management and dune ecosystems research to inform strategies to address coastal erosion, which has and will continue to affect transportation and other coastal systems; and,
- Nearshore data collection to understand changing ocean conditions and its effects on species and ecosystems.

Now more than ever, Oregon needs to make strategic investments in ocean and coastal health to address existing and emerging issues, enhance coastal resilience, prevent interruptions in coastal transportation services, and ensure the long-term sustainability of coastal fishery resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Lisa Gaines  
Director