

## Letter of Support for Marine Debris Cleanup (SB 795)

Dear **House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use and Water**,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 795, the Marine Debris Cleanup Act. This vital piece of legislation addresses a pressing environmental issue that affects not only our oceans but also our coastal communities, marine life, and human health.

Marine debris, including plastics, derelict docks, vessels and other infrastructure associated with waterway leases and other pollutants, pose a severe threat to marine ecosystems. It harms wildlife, disrupts habitats, and contributes to the decline of biodiversity. Moreover, marine debris impacts the economy by affecting industries such as tourism and fisheries, which rely heavily on healthy oceans and beaches. It is no fun to go to a beach in Oregon and find millions of pieces of plastics.

Senate Bill 795 aims to implement comprehensive strategies to prevent, reduce, and remove marine debris. It supports initiatives such as:

- Enhanced waste management practices to prevent debris from entering our waterways.
- Increased funding for cleanup efforts along coastal areas and in the open ocean.
- Promotion of public awareness campaigns to educate communities and industries about the impacts of marine debris and ways to mitigate it.
- Encouragement of research and development of innovative solutions to address the issue of marine debris.

By passing SB 795, we will take a significant step towards preserving the health of our oceans and protecting the wildlife that depends on them. This would lessen the burden on community groups and local governments who often bear the costs of cleanup and disposal. This bill not only represents a commitment to environmental stewardship but also supports sustainable economic growth by ensuring that our beaches and coastal waters remain pristine and inviting.

I urge you to vote in favor of SB 795 and to support its implementation. Together, we can make a difference in combating marine debris and safeguarding the future of our marine environments for generations to come. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jill Marks