

Submitter: Kyle Motley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural Resources

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5520

My name is Kyle Motley, and I live in Coos Bay. I am here today to express my strong support for House Bills 3580, the Eelgrass Action Bill, and 3587, the Rocky Habitat Stewardship Bill, and urge the legislature to allocate the necessary funding for these critical initiatives.

As a surfer and community member here on the south coast, I have a deep connection to Oregon's coastal environments. Eelgrass meadows serve as essential nurseries for species like salmon and Dungeness crab, which are integral to our local economy and also to the cultural fabric of our coastal communities. Alarming, these meadows are declining at a rate of 7% per year globally, with significant losses observed right here in Coos Bay.

Similarly, our rocky habitats—comprising tide pools, sea stacks, and reefs—are under increasing threat from human disturbance and climate change. These areas support a diverse array of marine life, economic potential, and tourism opportunities and are central to the identity and economy of coastal towns like Coos Bay. One of the reasons I love this area, and why I and countless others choose to live and recreate in Coos Bay, is because of the rocky habitat areas that HB 3587 aims to provide much needed resources and support for.

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Funding these bills is not merely an environmental imperative but also an economic one. Healthy marine ecosystems bolster fisheries, tourism, and recreation industries that are the lifeblood of our coastal economies. By investing in the preservation and restoration of eelgrass meadows and rocky habitats, we are safeguarding the natural resources that sustain our way of life and livelihoods.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to fund HB 3580 and HB 3587. Thank you for your time and consideration.?