

Submitter: Ken Wilkins
On Behalf Of: Self
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or HB4097
Topic:

Dear Committee Chair and Members:

On the surface, HB 4097 (Oregon Ocean Science Trust) seems not only harmless, but a great boon to study and protection of Oregon's ocean heritage. HOWEVER, my decades of experience as scientist and university research administrator suggest that there potentially are unintended consequences.

Would the new fund be open to contributions from just ANY source . . . with no restrictions? Might there be organizations, corporations, governments, political action committees, other entities that might use the 501(c)3 path as a route to drive research and monitoring in directions that serve corporate interests at the expense of the greater good?

It seems that an expanded version of this bill that protects the public interest from potential usurpation by selfish interests is in order. We need to guard against potential misuse of the mechanism that this bill would establish.

I OPPOSE the current version of this bill, but recommend revision to address concerns, then resubmission.

Thank you for considering my perspective.

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