

The Honorable Jackie Dingfelder
Chair Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resource
900 Court St. NE H-484
Salem 97301

2 February 2012

Dear Chair Dingfelder and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Meg Ruby. I am writing in support of the SB1510 to designate the Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Committee's recommended marine reserve sites at Cape Falcon, Cape Perpetua, and Cascade Head. OPAC's marine reserves will help our coastal ecosystems to "weather" the impacts of ocean acidification and climate change.

SB1510 represents the fruit of over 25,000 hours work by the Marine Reserve Community Teams which evaluated the ecological, social and economic uses of these iconic areas. Once designated, these three sites, along with the marine reserve sites at Otter Rock and Redfish Rocks will create Oregon's first system of Marine Reserves.

Studies of marine reserves in other areas around the globe, including temperate ecosystems with conditions similar to those off Oregon, demonstrate that reserves increase biodiversity, fish size, and abundance. Marine reserves are scientifically proven strategies for safeguarding and restoring ailing marine ecosystems and their fisheries.

The Cape Falcon, Cascade Head and Cape Perpetua marine reserves each meet the minimum scientific guidelines recommended by Oregon's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee. They will protect three ecologically important areas representative of Oregon's coastal marine communities. These reserves will allow plants and animals to flourish and reproduce, creating "**ecological savings accounts.**" These marine reserves will build in resiliency to our coastal ecosystems against the impacts of climate change, ocean acidification, as well as increased demand for fresh seafood.

As a person of faith and a member of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church in Portland Oregon, I believe we are called to be good stewards of our environment.

"Christians cannot be indifferent to global warming, pollution, natural resource depletion, species extinctions, and habitat destruction, all of which threaten life on our planet....[W]e must also actively seek to create more compassionate and sustainable economies that support the well-being of all God's creation."

"This is the appointed time for all God's children to work for the common goal of renewing the earth as a hospitable abode for the flourishing of all life."

September 2011 Pastoral Teaching - The House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church

Oregon's State Waters are managed in the public trust, so we all share responsibility for how our ocean is managed regardless of where we live. I strongly support Oregon's Marine Reserve Process and SB1510. I ask you for quick passage of SB1510. Thank you for your service and leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

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CC Senator Jackie Dingfelder
CC Representative Michael Dembrow