

February 2, 2012

The Honorable Jackie Dingfelder
Chairs Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
900 Court St. NE, H-484
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Dingfelder and Honorable Committee Members,

Cape Arago Audubon Society, of Coos Bay, Oregon is in support of SB1510. The current plan is built on a decade of work by state agencies and Oregon citizens. SB1510 will honor all the time and effort spent by citizens who worked on the Marine Reserve Community Teams.

Designating marine reserve sites at Cape Falcon, Cascade Head, and Cape Perpetua will help protect ecological, social and economic uses of these critical 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. We believe that establishing a connected system of marine reserves and protected areas, using the best science available, is an excellent insurance policy that Oregon can implement to ensure the health of our ocean for current and future generations.

We are proud of Oregon's history of environmental stewardship: the Beach Bill, the Bottle Bill, our state parks, and the first national estuary research reserve (South Slough NERR-right in our own backyard). Creating marine protected areas and reserves considers the needs of all Oregonians and the marine life that depends on healthy near-shore habitat. The ocean belongs to all of us, and a more sustainably-managed ocean will benefit all Oregonians. Please join us in supporting SB 1510.

Sincerely,

Eric Clough, CAAS President

Barbara Taylor, CAAS Secretary