

From: mwbennet .
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Subject: Support for SB 745
Date: Sunday, February 26, 2017 1:39:59 PM

Chair Dembrow, members of the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

As an Oregonian that considers our wild and scenic beaches not only our birthright but a critical fabric of our culture and economy, I urge you to support Oregon's Ocean Beach Fund (HB 2506/SB 745) this legislative session in the 50th Anniversary of our historical Beach Bill.

Oregon's 362 miles of public ocean beaches are the signature feature of our coast and a principal economic driver for rural coastal communities and the state of Oregon, representing an estimated \$2.4 Billion dollars annually in our economy. But today, beaches face increasingly significant problems of visitor safety, vandalism, increased marine debris, beachfront armoring and sand removal, and a rising and expanding range of recreational uses. These issues are driven by growing tourism in all seasons, unabated demand for ocean front development, and increasingly severe storm and erosion events due to climate-driven changes in the ocean, all of which are likely to persist. In our 50th Anniversary legislative session of Oregon's famed Beach Bill, renewed investment is essential to meet future management challenges and ensure that the legacy of our public beaches will endure for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Mark Bennett