

From: Sophie Wilson
To: [SENR Exhibits](#)
Subject: Support for SB 745
Date: Sunday, February 26, 2017 3:52:04 PM

Hello Senator Dembrow and members for the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

My name is Sophie Wilson, I am a 25 y/o woman who has lived in Oregon for eight years. I moved here for school and chose the school I attended (Willamette) in large part because of the allure of Oregon's outdoor scene. Oregon is geographically unique, offering access to oceans/beaches, mountain regions, high deserts and everything in between. Oregonians value nature, and specifically they value the coast, a trend which is reflected in the fact that 1/2 of Oregon State Parks visits are to the coast. Oregon beaches are renown for their beauty and exceptional in that their value was recognized and preserved for the public when they became legally categorized as public highways by Oswald West (over 100 years ago), and later when the Beach Bill was passed exactly 50 years ago to make sure that this special Oregon birthright is preserved for all-comers.

On the 50th anniversary of the beach bill, it is critical that we renew investment in the coast, and establishing a beach fund so that the money spent by the disproportionate number of visitors to *coastal* state parks, which causes wear and tear, be retained in the region it is spent in, and directed towards maintaining this beloved Oregon asset.

Oregon beaches are vulnerable to climate-driven changes and extreme weather events, causing erosion, washing out paths, busting up structures and sending debris into the ocean, etc. It is a critical habitat that supports the economy (through tourism and ocean-based industries), and it needs to become an immediate priority for increased funding. 2017 is a timely a year as any to make a move to protect beaches for future generations.

Thank you for your time,

Sophie Wilson
5103 SE Stark Apt. B
Portland, OR 97215 (Senator Dembrow's District)