



Oregon Coastal Zone Management Association

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February 24th, 2017

OCZMA Board of Directors
Position Statement
SB: 745 & HB 2506 – Beach Fund

OCZMA Supports the establishment of an Ocean Beach Fund. The fund would be supported by directing the amount of transient lodging tax revenues from state recreation area lodgings along the ocean shore received by State Parks and Recreation Department, to the Ocean Beach Fund. The fund would then direct the department to spend moneys from fund for expenses of managing state recreation areas along ocean shore.

2017 brings the 50th anniversary of the Oregon Beach Bill. The 362 miles of ocean beaches in Oregon provide breathtaking vistas and recreational opportunities, while being a significant economic driver for coastal communities. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department manages the ocean beaches as a State Recreation Area under the Oregon Beach Bill. As visitors grow, so do their needs, and OPRD lacks sufficient capacity to meet these increasing needs. Our Oregon beaches also face increasing problems of visitor safety and emergency response, with an expanding range of recreational uses. Vandalism, beachfront armoring and sand management, as well as the need for increased marine debris response and removal, are also issues. As year-round tourism, demand for ocean front development, and sea level increase, so will erosion and debris through increasing severe storm events.

The establishment of the Ocean Beach Fund, through this Bill, will allow for a renewed investment in Oregon's beaches and the communities that surround them, and does this without increasing fees or costs to our residents. The future health, safety and welfare of our Oregon beaches and the residents that enjoy them would be greatly improved through this fund by the subsequent work related to it. It is our challenge to meet the increased management needs of our Oregon beaches to ensure their legacy for generations to come. SB 745 will assist in doing so, and we respectfully request your support.