

February 27, 2017

Testimony of
Robert Bailey, Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition
On Senate Bill 745, Establishes Ocean Beach Fund
Before the
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Chairman Dembrow, Vice-chair Olsen, and Committee Members:

Good afternoon. My name is Robert Bailey. As a board member of the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, I am representing the organization. For more than 45 years Oregon Shores has worked to protect Oregon's ocean beaches and the public's rights to use them as established by the Oregon Beach Bill in 1967. A big part of our work is the CoastWatch Program, with more than 1,340 volunteers who walk an adopted segment of beach and report on the use and condition of that particular mile of beach.

We commend Senator Roblan, Surfrider Foundation, and others who worked to craft this bill which we are pleased to support.

Oregon's beautiful ocean beaches would seem to take care of themselves, but the reality is that our beaches need and deserve active management by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. OPRD personnel play an important role in addressing marine debris, educating the public about beach safety, attending to violations of beach regulations, intervening when unpermitted activities occur, and providing a much-needed presence on the shoreline. Steadily increasing use of Oregon's beaches in all seasons means this work is needed all year around, not just in the summer.

We believe that the Ocean Beach Fund and financing proposed by this bill are especially appropriate. It makes sense to allocate some of the funds already collected from campers in ocean shore state parks to re-invest in needed management of those very beaches. The Ocean Beach Fund will give Oregon a much needed tool to keep our signature coastal beaches safe, clean, and accessible for the next 50 years and beyond.

Oregon Shores urges you to vote YES on SB 745.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I would be pleased to answer any questions you may have.