

March 21, 2017

Testimony of
Robert Bailey, Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition
On House Bill 3193, Oregon Coast Trail
Before the
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Chairman Clem, Vice-chairs McLain and Sprenger, and Committee Members:

Good morning. My name is Robert Bailey. As a board member of the Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition, I am representing the organization.

Oregon Shores is pleased to support House Bill 3193.

Our support may come as a surprise to some of the committee members, but we believe this is a well-thought out bill that will modernize Oregon's ability to manage its rocky intertidal areas to allow reasonable human use of these resources while ensuring that ecosystem values are protected. We believe that the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department, with its increasing expertise in its Marine Habitat Program, is the appropriate agency to regulate the harvest of seaweeds along the ocean shore and has the scientific capacity to develop and administer regulations envisioned by this bill.

We commend the bill sponsors for acknowledging the responsibilities of all three state agencies that have overlapping duties on the ocean shore: the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, which has ocean shore management authority, and the Oregon Department of State Lands which has jurisdiction over the publicly owned state tidelands. We agree with the provision providing for a Memorandum of Agreement among the three agencies because we believe this will be essential to ensuring that management of seaweed harvest is fully integrated with all other management objectives on the ocean shore.

We are pleased that the bill eliminates the antiquated kelp leasing authority of the Department of State Lands. We believe that this bill fills a long-standing regulatory gap in rocky intertidal areas where seaweeds are, in fact, being harvested even now without oversight. The bill sets standards that we believe are sufficiently prescriptive to result in sensible regulations to ensure environmentally sensitive management of the harvest of seaweeds.

We look forward to working with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and other partners in the rule-making process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.