

April 10, 2017

Testimony of
Robert Bailey, Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition
On Senate Bill 281, Appropriates General Fund Money to Ocean Science 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.

Oregon Shores has supported the long, long process of creating the Oregon Ocean Science Trust. And we now strongly support SB 281.

This bill is a milestone for the State of Oregon. It will enable the Ocean Science Trust to begin to fulfill its mission of scientific research and monitoring of Oregon's nearshore marine environment. The funds in this bill will enable the Trust to leverage additional funding from other sources and will enable Oregon to provide marine research to support Oregon's nearshore management responsibilities as delineated by the 1991 Legislature when it enacted the Oregon Ocean Resources Management Program.

Oregon Shores has for many years advocated for and operated Citizen Science Programs in the tide pools and sandy beaches of the Oregon Coast. Our Coast Watch program has more than a thousand volunteers who have adopted and monitor a mile of beach. Year after year, we have seen first-hand how strongly citizens feel about marine science and monitoring as a means of ensuring that our ocean resources are cared for over the long run. Even though we are proud of our Citizen Science and CoastWatch efforts, these cannot substitute for long-term sustained scientific marine research and monitoring that this bill will enable.

Oregon Shores speaks on behalf of our many members and urges that you pass SB 281.