

From: William C Nielsen
To: [LRO](#)
Subject: Support for SB 745
Date: Tuesday, May 02, 2017 9:30:38 PM

Chair Hass, members of the Senate Committee on Finance and Revenue,

First, I would like to thank you for all of your hard work and I hope that this email finds you well. As a personal advocate and a Surfrider member, I am writing to you on behalf of improving our public lands and water spaces. Whether it is fishing on Netarts Bay or surfing in Pacific City, I am a proud Oregonian who seeks to protect our beautiful resources, and, furthermore, a proud Oregonian who has the opportunity to write to you in hopes of receiving your support for Oregon's Ocean Beach Fund Initiative.

As an Oregonian that considers our wild and scenic beaches not only our birthright but a critical fabric of our culture and economy, I urge you to support Oregon's Ocean Beach Fund (SB 745) this legislative session in the 50th Anniversary of our historical Beach Bill.

Oregon's 362 miles of public ocean beaches are the signature feature of our coast and a principal economic driver for rural coastal communities and the state of Oregon, representing an estimated \$2.4 Billion dollars annually in our economy. But today, beaches face increasingly significant problems of visitor safety, vandalism, increased marine debris, beachfront armoring and sand removal, and a rising and expanding range of recreational uses. These issues are driven by growing tourism in all seasons, unabated demand for ocean front development, and increasingly severe storm and erosion events due to climate-driven changes in the ocean, all of which are likely to persist. In our 50th Anniversary legislative session of Oregon's famed Beach Bill, renewed investment is essential to meet future management challenges and ensure that the legacy of our public beaches will endure for generations to come.

The Ocean Beach Fund will allow Oregon to make critical investments in our beaches, improving both visitor safety and general experience of this resource which directly generates billions of dollars annually within our economy. In a tough budget year, this savvy legislation works with an existing revenue collected by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department at ocean shore campgrounds and directs those revenues into a dedicated fund to support these rising beach management issues. Thank you.

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