

February 11, 2019

Senator Michael Dembrow
Environment and Natural Resources, Chair
900 Court St. NE, S-407
Salem, OR 97301



RE: Support Senate Bill 260

Dear Senator Dembrow and Honorable Members of the Committee:

Surfrider Foundation appreciates the opportunity to provide the committee members with our comments and strong support for SB 260, a bill to establish strategic investments in monitoring, research, and ultimately adaptation to ocean acidification and hypoxia along Oregon's coast. Surfrider Foundation, is a grassroots network of ocean advocates dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our world's oceans, waves and beaches. Our Oregon chapter network and volunteers are deeply rooted in the health of our ocean and coastal economy and as such, we both witness and feel the impacts of ocean acidification and hypoxia directly. Investments are critically needed to learn and adapt to these changing ocean conditions which put management of our fisheries, ocean ecosystems, coastal economies and even just a nice day at the beach at risk.

With Oregon being the epicenter of ocean acidification and hypoxia, impacted stakeholders such as fishermen, shellfish hatcheries and recreational users alike were the first to begin partnering with researchers on monitoring efforts along the coast. In the absence of dedicated funding from the state for monitoring, researchers sought these types of local partnerships to enhance what little monitoring was currently underway as well as to support our improved understanding to adapt. While these community volunteer and fishermen partnerships can help support small academic monitoring projects and some outreach and education, more robust strategic investments from the state are needed to support the actual management of our marine ecosystems and the fisheries dependent upon them. As such, Oregon established the Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Council to develop a report identifying actions for immediate attention, presumably to be acted upon during the 2019 legislative session. From the report, 7 actions across 5 themes were identified, which are further reflected in the appropriations for strategic investments in this bill.

Surfrider Foundation is pleased to see appropriations for monitoring, ecosystem resilience and communications initiatives. When weighing the benefit of these various initiatives, Surfrider Foundation supports strong consideration of ecosystem resilience investment strategies for their multifaceted benefits to our ocean and coast beyond mitigating OAH. Finally, while Surfrider Foundation does support SB 260, we are concerned that no fiscal appropriations are supported within the bill for OAH Council priority actions to a) coordinate with CO2 policy actions and b) implement agency priorities. Given the current initiatives in the Capitol building with the carbon bill and the general need to prioritize actions within agencies, we feel this is a missed opportunity and should be considered, especially as other CO2 policy actions may leverage further fiscal support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlie Plybon".

Charlie Plybon
Oregon Policy Manager, Surfrider Foundation
11770 SE Acacia St.
South Beach, OR 97366

