

Testimony in Support of SB 1554
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
February 7, 2020

Good afternoon Chair Dembrow and members of the Committee. I am Molly Dumas, Director of Development at the Oregon Coast Aquarium here today in strong support of SB 1554.

We want to thank Senator Roblan for his tireless advocacy on behalf of all things coastal during his impressive public service career and for his sponsorship of SB 1554.

The Aquarium staff, our Board and supporters were thrilled with the reception we received in this committee in the 2019 session when Gerry Frank urged your support of Senate Bill 261 in relation to our current capital campaign. We thank you for your support of the lottery backed bonds that will be used to renew and prepare the aquarium for our next 15 million visitors.

The first project to be completed as part of our capital campaign is an Indo-Pacific Coral Reef exhibit. This exhibit allows us the opportunity to deliver messages about ocean acidification and coral bleaching. The Aquarium has long been an active partner with ODFW, Marine Reserves, OSU, NOAA and others to monitor and preserve coastal habitats and rehabilitate stranded or injured sea life. We take what we learn from these studies and use them to teach a half million people each year through the Aquarium's onsite, outreach and online marine education programs.

Funding from SB 1554 will help the Aquarium's education programs continue this work. Right now, our youth volunteers are raising awareness of ocean acidification, plastic pollution and other conservation issues in their own schools and communities. They see these issues as urgent, knowing their future livelihood and food sources are at stake.

We urge your support of SB 1554.

