



February 7, 2020

Senator Dembrow, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
Oregon Legislature

Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee,

Environment Oregon is a statewide, citizen-based environmental advocacy organization working for clean air, clean water and open space. We write in support of Senate Bill 1554.

The ocean is a natural treasure that holds many mysteries and secrets, but one thing we know for sure is a healthy ocean is critical to staving off the worst impacts of climate change and ensuring healthy communities.

Rachel Carson once said, "in every curving beach, in every grain of sand, there is a story of the earth."

The story of the earth in 2020 is one of a changing climate that is already having devastating impacts on the world's oceans, marine life and the coastal communities that rely on them. It is critical that we equip marine scientists and other coastal interests with the resources and tools they need to monitor, study and manage the changes in the ocean, especially ocean acidification and hypoxia.

Thank you to Senator Roblan for putting forward this bi-partisan bill that invests in solutions and gives our state some much needed tools and resources to mitigate major challenges for our ocean and coastal communities in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Celeste Meiffren-Swango
State Director