

February 6, 2023

Representative Ken Helm, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
900 Court St. NE, H-490
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Support House Bill 2903, Oregon Marine Reserve Program

Dear Chair Helm and Members of the Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water Committee:

As a north Oregon coast resident, I urge you to support House Bill 2903, regarding the Oregon Marine Reserve Program. I live at the edge of the Cape Falcon Marine Reserve, just south of Cannon Beach. I have volunteered to develop and support Oregon's special marine protected areas for 15 years and have a deep understanding of their importance to our coastal communities and the state as a whole.

The marine reserve goals are 1) to protect Oregon's incredible marine biodiversity and 2) provide areas for scientific research. They are achieving these goals and I am especially excited about all the new knowledge we are gaining about our nearshore ocean, including about rockfish and ocean acidification. The information is already being used to improve management and inform policy.

As mandated by legislation, the ODFW Marine Reserve Program was recently independently assessed by a team of science experts. They found the program to be successful but made suggestions for additions and improvements. HB 2903 would require ODFW to carry out the report's recommendations and provide funding for implementation of the recommendations.

I am thankful for the Coastal Caucus' sponsorship of HB 2903, including our north coast state legislators, Senator Suzanne Weber and Representative Cyrus Javadi.

Please vote for HB 2903 to help ensure that Oregon continues to responsibly manage our ocean by supporting our marine reserves for the benefit of our people and wildlife.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nadia Gardner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

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