

Submitter: Amy Williams

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and
Water

Measure: HB2903

I worked at a marine mammal rescue center between 2014 and 2018. We hosted and collaborated with many environmental experts and agencies at our facility.

The bleak predictions shared with our staff from scientists and researchers regarding the wellness of the Pacific Ocean was grim. NOAA staff and NWFS staff would share equally distressing reports with us about dwindling sea life, increasing ocean pollution and coastal habitat destruction.

But hearing directly from people “in the field” should not be required to understand and accept our natural coastal resources require vigilant, consistent, meaningful and publicly funded research and program development. It’s our responsibility to ensure our marine sanctuaries survive and thrive.

Our oceans, marine life and coastal ecosystems are the “canary in the coal mine” for determining the future stability of our climate. It’s time to go “all in.”

Educate the public that humans are not above nor in control of nature. Humans are part of nature, yet hold the unique responsibility to be active stewards for the environment.

Let’s ensure that stewardship by example exists along our beautiful Oregon coast