

Submitter: Katharine Nalven

On Behalf Of: Cape Perpetua Collaborative

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

Measure: HB2903

We are the Cape Perpetua Collaborative, the community group representing Oregon's largest marine reserve at Cape Perpetua. Founded in 2017 as a partnership between a federally recognized Tribe, NGOs, and agencies, our mission is to raise support for and awareness of the Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve by fostering stewardship, knowledge sharing, and volunteerism.

We represent over 40 volunteers and nearly 5,000 supporters. Our supporters range from local Oregonians to international visitors. On behalf of our collective voices, we are thankful for The State for creating this opportunity to comment on HB2903. We are pleased to voice our collective support for HB2903.

The Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve has had tremendous social benefits to the community. The Cape Perpetua Marine Reserve reflects the local conservation mindset and promotes opportunities for locals to engage with conservation, with special emphasis on volunteer-style community science such as marine debris surveys, sea star surveys, and sea bird counts. Locals and visitors alike praise the beauty of the area and rejoice in knowing this area is a fully-protected MPA.

In the next phases of the Oregon Marine Reserve program, we support The State implementing recommendations from the Ocean Policy Advisory Council for adaptive management and social monitoring.

We would like to reiterate the power of the local support of Oregon's Marine Reserves that is reflected in the local community groups, like the Cape Perpetua Collaborative. We encourage The State to include support of the community groups in the Marine Reserve Program to further promote the social benefits of marine reserves.

We are eager to continue to work with the Oregon Marine Reserve Program to continue to empower the local community and capitalize on the social benefits Oregon's Marine Reserves provide.