



February 9, 2023

Re: Support for HB 2903

Dear Chair Helm and Members of the Committee:

Since 1986 North Coast Land Conservancy has been supporting the Oregon Coast through our conservation work as a land trust. We've partnered with cities on drinking water protection, communities on open space goals, the state on salmon protection, and ODOT on floodplain enhancement.

Most recently, we have ventured into the ocean to support the great work of Oregon's Marine Reserves. We partnered with the Friends of Cape Falcon and adopted the Cape Falcon Marine Reserve program. Oregon's oceans play such a critical role in the health of our state and beyond, and species abundance and habitat, and ecosystem processes do not end with the land. The science and celebration of these marine reserves and marine protected areas has been only welcomed in our area. Our local and state leaders, business owners, and residents are very supportive of the marine reserves system existing in order to promote continued scientific research, community engagement, and habitat protection. Particularly here on the north coast, residents see the value of the land sea connections.

The Cape Falcon Marine Reserve has been wonderful for our community - from providing a living laboratory to creating a paid staff position to amplify engagement opportunities. It has allowed us to learn more about local seabird colonies, monitor seastars to help scientists gather data, teach visitors about tidepool etiquette and the awesome creatures that reside in tidepools, and so much more.

We are incredibly proud of the work of our community to support the Cape Falcon Marine Reserve. Here's a snippet of that support since 2015:

- Reached 2,145 students and more than 9,000 adults in educational events
- Engaged nearly 400 volunteers in nearly 3,000 hours stewardship and community science activities
- Brought nearly \$600,000 into our community through grants and donations to support our work on the marine reserve



The success of Cape Falcon Marine Reserve as a living laboratory for our community would not be possible without the ODFW Marine Reserves Program. Long term monitoring efforts like those happening in our reserve system take consistent investments and regular monitoring to be successful. HB 2903 mirrors the recommendations from the OSU program assessment and we wholeheartedly agree with their recommendations.

Please vote “yes” on HB 2903 so Oregon’s Marine Reserve Program can continue to be a shining example of community collaboration and marine resource management.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Voelke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katie Voelke
Executive Director
North Coast Land Conservancy