

Submitter: Nicole Anstedt-Henneman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Hello,

My name is Nicole Anstedt-Henneman and I am a resident of Beaverton, Oregon.

I am submitting testimony to encourage continued funding of the Marine Reserve Program.

Often we forget the sources of our food, water, and electricity or how critical it is that the resources remain clean, healthy, and renewable.

We also forget the small coastal communities that depend on healthy ecosystems for tourism, fishing, and the overall vitality of their lives.

It is programs like the Marine Reserve program that help ensure both.

The proposed budget cut threatens the Marine Reserve program, the science and monitoring, and the designation of these ecologically significant ocean places. Oregon's Marine Reserves and protected areas are legacies that must be protected

I urge you to reinstate the Community Engagement Project Leader of ODFW's Marine Reserve Program. Please also support the Marine Reserves investments in HB 2903 to maximize the community and ecological benefits of these pristine coastal resources. These recommendations come from a decadal science and social review of the program with bipartisan support, aimed at strengthening community resilience and adaptation to coastal climate change, and now is the time to make those investments in Oregon's future.

Thank You