

State of Oregon/Capital Construction Committee

1pm, May 5, 2023, Oregon State Capital

Hello, my name is Molly Dumas, Dir of Development at the Oregon Coast Aquarium.

I want to **thank you for re-appropriating Lottery funding** in 2021 to the make much needed capital improvements.

- We've **started ordering new tanks and life support for our galleries.**
- Construction begins this fall

Visitors who make the Aquarium their destination, have **an annual impact of \$100M** to the **coastal economy.**

Every time the Aquarium adds **a new attraction, admissions jump 5%.**

- Last year, we were able to **complete Phase I construction WITHOUT government funding.**
- **Attendance jumped 15% higher than 2019,** aiding in our miraculous **COVID recovery**

Before I was hired in 2017 to lead the Aquarium's **\$12M Capital Campaign, I traveled** with my family from **Utah** every year. I thought this campaign was extremely **ambitious for a small nonprofit,** but **8000 generous donors** have **contributed \$17M to match the State's support.**

My challenge is that the **goal posts have moved from \$12M to \$29M.**

That's why I'm here to **ask again** for your support of our **\$5M request for capital construction funds:**

- **\$3.5M will help us finish the galleries,** and
- **\$1.5M will construct outdoor enclosures and life support** for the new marine wildlife rehabilitation center.

The galleries will **drive tourism.** The Rehab Center will **build our capacity to treat and release threatened and endangered species like sea turtles and sea otters.** We will also be able to **expand our research** in partnership with **ODFW, Elakha Alliance,** Oregon Kelp Alliance, OSU, NOAA and others **sustain the health of our ocean.**

I have **raised almost all** of the funds needed for the **rehab building itself** from Private Donations. **Demolition of old warehouses** starts this summer, and we aim to break ground a year from now.

I feel **confident** that **with this \$5M infusion from the State,** I can **raise the remaining \$2M needed.**

Oregonians treasure the Aquarium. They **came to our rescue** during the pandemic.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our request to **match their commitment.**