

COURTNEY NERON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 26



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Testimony in Support of HB 4132

February 6, 2024

Dear Chair Helm and Committee Members,

I'm writing to express my full support for HB 4132, which will provide needed funding for Oregon's Marine Reserves Program. As someone who cares deeply about Oregon's ecology, I see this bill as essential for preserving our marine resources and driving scientific research.

Past legislation established Oregon's Marine Reserves system. Today, these protected areas are priceless and an important approach to nearshore ocean conservation. These reserves are strategically located to minimize impact to coastal communities and ocean users. They provide crucial insights into the challenges facing our oceans.

Investing in the Marine Reserves Program will ensure scientific research merges with economic, social, and cultural values. The program will inform responsible and adaptive resource management, protection, and monitoring of emerging threats like ocean acidification and species decline.

HB 4132 is a commitment to preserving the integrity and effectiveness of the Marine Reserves Program, ensuring it continues to lead the way in ocean conservation and management.

I urge you to support HB 4132 and uphold Oregon's dedication to protecting our coastal resources through conservation, research, and collaboration. By investing in our marine reserves, we can ensure the health of our oceans for generations to come.

Sincerely,

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

Representative Courtney Neron
House District 26