

To: Oregon House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water
Date: February 7, 2024
From: Mary Pickett, Oregon citizen

Re: Support for House Bill 4132, Relating to Marine Reserves

Hello esteemed committee members,

I am writing with warm support for HB 4132 to build Oregon's Marine Reserve Program, helping to manage our coastal habitats.

I am an Oregon native, and I am a primary care doctor practicing in Portland, Oregon. I am part of a four-generation family of Oregonians -- I have spent my life here. Like many Oregonians, I have found ways to keep a connection to the Oregon Coast and I visit our beaches whenever I can. My favorite thing about our wonderful state is the fact that we keep the Oregon beaches available to Oregon Citizens, and that we take such good care of them. They are an incredible natural treasure.

This summer I was with my family at Short Sands Beach, and I spent several hours exploring the tide pools with some volunteer ambassadors who were there to guide visitors. I could not believe how much I learned. I also hiked in the incredible mountains that frame this area, hiking to Hermit Hut along to path to Angora Peak. So spirit-lifting! I am proud to live in the Northwest, where we come together to preserve the most beautiful places that surround us.

I have been so impressed with the Marine Reserve program since it began operations. I have found the signage on beaches and the conservation rules are clear, practical, and effective. I am delighted to see its success. Only with this kind of careful forward-looking research can we keep our Oregon citizenry engaged in a way that will perpetuate our wonderful coastline ecosystem.

Please vote yes on HB 4132 for our Ocean!

Mary Pickett, MD
Portland