

Submitter: Pamela Reber
On Behalf Of: HB 3587
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural
Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3587

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, and Members of the Committee,

Please join me in supporting the Rocky Habitat Stewardship Bill (HB 3587). Oregon is unique in its land use program in that unique ecological features have been identified, and the values that they provide society are outlined and to some degree quantified. The coastal zone of the Western U.S. is incredibly biologically rich, but it faces thousands of impacts both small and large. Oregon's iconic rocky habitats—places like Haystack Rock and Coquille Point—are biologically, culturally, and economically important. They support a wealth of marine life including millions of nesting seabirds like Tufted Puffins and Common Murre. They also support marine mammals, kelp beds, fish, and invertebrate species. They attract millions of recreational visitors, helping support a 2+ billion dollar tourism industry.

However, rocky habitats are increasingly vulnerable to disturbance and climate impacts. Passing this bill would provide needed agency coordination to manage these sites and a grants program to support community stewardship to ensure rocky habitat sites are protected in a specific manner that allows them to thrive while facilitating nearby economic, cultural, and biological purposes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Pam Reber