

Submitter: Dana Manners

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3587

Dear Co-chair Helm, Co-chair Owens and members of the committee,

I'm writing to share strong support for HB 3587 and HB 3580—two bills that are essential to protecting Oregon's coastal ecosystems. These bills will provide critical funding to help protect our rocky habitats and eelgrass meadows, which are vital to the health of our coastlines and local communities.

Oregon's rocky habitats and eelgrass meadows are home to an incredible variety of wildlife, from seabirds and fish to marine mammals. They also help protect our shorelines, clean our water, and support local jobs in fishing and tourism. But these special places are under growing pressure from climate change, pollution, and increasing human activity.

HB 3587 would fund a full-time Rocky Habitat Coordinator at the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCDC) and create a \$300,000 grant fund to support community groups working to protect these sites. This funding would help make sure the eight new rocky habitat sites designated in 2023—like Ecola Point and Chapman Point—get the care and protection they need.

Similarly, HB 3580 would create an Eelgrass Task Force to study the health of Oregon's eelgrass meadows and recommend steps to protect and restore them by 2040. Eelgrass meadows are vital for fish, fight climate change by storing carbon, and protect our shorelines. But without better monitoring and action, these critical habitats will continue to decline.

Together, these bills represent a small but powerful investment in Oregon's natural heritage—protecting wildlife, strengthening local economies, and helping our communities adapt to climate change. We urge you to support HB 3587 and HB 3580 to help Oregon's coastal ecosystems thrive for generations to come.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to Oregon's coast.

Sincerely,

Dana Manners