

Submitter: David Whitaker

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3580

Please support HB 3580. Eelgrass meadows are nurseries for juvenile fish including salmon, herring, and shellfish species that are so important for the coastal economy and for our culture. Much of the Oregon culture is associated with the salmon that return to our rivers each year and the Dungeness Crab that we feast on. I love to get together with one of my best friends to fish for fall chinook and to crab in Tillamook Bay and Netarts Bay. I want my grandson to be able to experience the joy of crabbing and salmon fishing. However eelgrass is declining and we currently don't know why. Passing this bill would set up a Taskforce to set eelgrass conservation targets, assess monitoring programs, and evaluate policy barriers through a collaborative effort involving agencies, Tribes, scientists, local communities, and others. Please support this effort.

Thank you for your consideration,  
David Whitaker