

Submitter: Amy Carlson

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,

As an Oregonian who deeply appreciates, recreates in, and advocates for Oregon's incredible coastal environment, I am asking for your support of HB 3587 and our invaluable rocky habitats.

Rocky habitats play critical role in bolstering marine biodiversity and supporting resilient communities. HB 3587 develops important site management plans for existing Rocky habitat sites, provides needed agency coordination to better protect these sites, and sets up a grant fund for local communities to engage the public on best practices to enjoy these places while minimizing disturbance to sensitive wildlife and habitats.

These are just a handful of reasons why this bill is important:

- 1) Oregon's rocky habitats, such as Haystack Rock and Coquille Point, are iconic destinations for millions of visitors.
- 2) Coastal economies and jobs, including those in fisheries, tourism, research, and aquaculture, all benefit from healthy rocky habitats (declining rocky habitats have immediate negative impacts on the surrounding ocean).
- 3) Rocky habitats are some of the most biodiverse ecosystems Oregon has, made up of millions of nesting birds, marine mammals, fish and invertebrates (such as octopus, puffins, crabs, anemones, seals and many more) that depend on their protection.
- 4) Rocky habitats protect shoreline from strong storms and help sequester carbon.
- 5) Increasing climate impacts (marine heat waves and changing weather patterns imperil rocky habitat areas and the wildlife who rely on them), as well as human disturbance, are threatening these special places.

For a very modest investment we can conserve rocky habitats, foster marine biodiversity, support coastal economies, and increase resilience to a changing climate. Our coastal ecosystems, and all the communities and species who depend on them, need us to act today. Please pass HB 3587 out of committee and advocates for its passage into law.

Thank you for your serious consideration,
Amy Carlson