

Submitter: Tabea Goossen

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,

Please support HB 3587.

I own a home on the Oregon coast. When I began spending time here 25 years ago, I routinely walked the beach with little understanding of the environment beyond watching the mesmerizing waves. Over the years, I became more environmentally educated and began to understand the importance and interconnection of estuaries, wetlands, rocky habitats, and wildlife. I have appreciated the implementation of Marine Reserves and rocky habitat site designations. I volunteer a lot for various organizations and have fought hard to protect the wildlife and the coastal environment.

My home is located in a stunning coastal area that has a high volume of tourism, and it's difficult for me to watch the impact of visitors to this area. I spend hours in Oregon's rocky habitats, and I know first-hand how immensely important these habitats are for millions of nesting birds, marine mammals, fish, invertebrates and all the critters in tide pools. This summer I saw sea otters at Ecola Point – even though Oregon does not have sea otters! HB 3587 would provide valuable agency coordination to better protect these sites. It also would set up much-needed funds for local communities to engage the public on how best to enjoy these places while minimizing disturbance to sensitive wildlife and habitats. Many citizens like me gladly volunteer countless hours to support protection of our coast, and we need the support of this bill to ensure that our efforts are not in vain.

For a very reasonable financial outlay, rocky habitats can be protected for the future.

Sincerely,
Tabea Goossen