

Submitter: Patrick Slabe

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3580

March 4, 2025

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

There are two important bills that I hope you will support. These bills will protect two things we value, Oregon's coastal natural resources and coastal community economies.

Eelgrass meadows are found along from Alaska to Mexico. They are intricate to the health of our coastal ecosystems and the coastal communities that rely on these healthy ecosystems. The meadows are in decline and by supporting their protection we would realize multiple benefits. We can strengthen biodiversity, reduce carbon in the atmosphere and improve important coastal fisheries. Please support HB 3580.

Oregon's rocky habitats, although quite different than eelgrass meadows are equally important to protect. These habitats support birds, mammals, and fish. People travel to our coastline not only for the beautiful landscape, but the diversity of life.

Rocky habitats support the wildlife we love and the coastal communities of which we care. Please support HB 3587.

Waiting to protect these valuable Oregon resources should not be an option. The cost to the State's budget is minimal, but the cost of hesitation would be high, negatively affecting our natural resources and the communities they serve.

Sincerely,

Patrick Slabe