

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

My name is Angela Whitlock and I am the Marine Program Manager with North Coast Land Conservancy. I am a native Oregonian and have been living on the north coast for the past 25 years.

I am writing to ask that you please support HB 3587, to protect Oregon's amazing rocky intertidal habitats. This bill offers a great opportunity to support biodiversity, coastal economies, and increase resilience to a changing climate.

Oregon's rocky habitats are truly amazing places where we have an opportunity to learn about and interact with marine life up close. They draw millions of visitors to the Oregon Coast annually, and because of this, are at risk of being "loved to death". These habitats are incredibly important for millions of nesting birds, marine mammals, fish and invertebrates. Increasing climate impacts adds additional stress to the human disturbance that is threatening these special places. HB 3587 would provide needed agency coordination to better protect these sites. It also would set 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.

Now is the time to act to protect our coastal ecosystems. For a modest investment we can ensure rocky habitats can be conserved and thrive to be enjoyed for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Angela Whitlock