

Submitter: Deb Atiyeh

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:

I'm writing in support of HB 3587 (Coastal Rocky Habitats) and the HB3580 Eelgrass Action Bill.

As a native Oregonian and now living on the north Oregon coast, we are frequent visitors to the recently designated rocky habitats of Chapman Point and Ecola Point near Cannon Beach. Unfortunately, they are being negatively impacted by an ever increasing number of visitors to these areas. The Cannon Beach area was listed as one of the "100 Most Beautiful Places on Earth" in National Geographic Explorer. The areas around Chapman Point and Ecola Point are among the most beautiful places on earth. The sea stars, anemones, mussels, and other sea creatures who live in these rocky tidal areas fill one with a sense of wonder. Black Oyster-catchers, Tufted Puffins, Cormorants and other endangered sea birds nest on the rocky habitat of these areas.

These wild creatures are looking to us for protection. The wildlife that inhabit these fragile Rocky Shores are at risk from climate change, ocean warming and acidification, declining food sources and micro plastics, along with the increasing number of people visiting their habitat.

We must look ahead with the idea of preservation so that healthy habitats will exist into the future. We must do all that we can right now to Protect what matters. Thank you! Deb Atiyeh