

VAL HOYLE
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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
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COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
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March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin crafting the Fiscal Year 2024 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill, I respectfully request funding for Oregon Kelp Forest Protection and Restoration Initiative, Port Orford, OR in the amount of \$2,000,000 within the Committee's Community Project Funding Effort.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Oregon Kelp Alliance, located at 444 Jackson Street, Port Orford, Oregon, 97465. The project is located at six restoration sites on the Oregon Coast and will most benefit the southern coast from Brookings to Coos Bay.

The funding would be used to address the recent significant declines in the health of Oregon's kelp forests by removing sea urchins across six sites to prepare urchin barrens for reestablishment of kelp forests. It will also fund active out-planting and seeding of bull kelp at three of these cleared sites via green gravel and spore bags techniques to help kelps actively reestablish on cleared sites.

In the past decade, scientists and fishermen have raised alarm about the loss of key kelp forests in Oregon. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because kelp forests are unique coastal habitats that support valuable fisheries, are home to endangered species, offer unique recreational and tourism opportunities, and can help shelter coastlines from large storms. Fisheries and coastal ecosystems are critical to the rural economy of Oregon's southern coast.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. § 1451 et seq.). I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Val 7. Hoyle".

Val Hoyle
Member of Congress