

Office of the Governor
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STATEMENT BY GOVERNOR TOM McCALL

In the past few weeks, the question of how best to preserve the public rights to our beaches has become Oregon's most volatile political issue. It has generated more public expression than any other matter before this legislature.

Over the weekend, the prime movers of the "beach bill" ironed out the remaining points of conflict. We worked in close touch to frame a much better--and much stronger--bill than had originally been proposed.

The result is responsive to the concerns of thousands of citizens--whether they be beach recreationists or property owners. And, far from being a partisan product, it involved Democrats and Republicans, scientists, oceanographers, engineers, biologists, as well as Speaker Montgomery, State Treasurer Straub and this office. The House leadership, in particular, is to be commended for contributing a very effective package of zoning amendments.

From every standpoint, this whole constructive interchange is proof of the strength of the Oregon legislative process.

The release of these amendments marks today as an historic day for Oregon. It fulfills the dream of former Governor Oswald West that: "In the administration of this God-given trust, a broad protective policy should be declared and maintained. No local selfish interest should be permitted, through politics or otherwise, to destroy or even impair this great birthright of our people."

I applaud all those who have contributed to this solution and enthusiastically recommend this set of amendments to the House Highways Committee. I urge the Committee's speedy concurrence.