

S 2807

Help Our Kelp Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Sep 14, 2023

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (Sep 14, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/2807>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]

Party: Democratic • State: OR • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Sep 14, 2023
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Sep 14, 2023
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Sep 14, 2023
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Sep 18, 2023
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		Dec 5, 2023
Sen. Welch, Peter [D-VT]	D · VT		Jun 11, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Sep 14, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 5487	Related bill	Mar 21, 2024: Subcommittee Hearings Held

## Help Our Kelp Act

This bill directs the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to establish a grant program to fund projects to conserve, restore, or manage kelp forest ecosystems. (A kelp forest is a dense grouping of large brown algae which also serves as a habitat for marine life.)

Eligible projects include those that address the greatest relative regional declines in kelp forest ecosystems, focus on kelp forest seeding and connectivity, or integrate Indigenous knowledge and cultural practices into the restoration and monitoring of kelp forest ecosystems.

The bill specifies that members of the fishing industry, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, Indian tribes, state agencies, and local governments are eligible to receive grants.

The bill prohibits a grant from exceeding 85% of the total project cost. However, NOAA may waive this restriction in limited circumstances.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Sep 14, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
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