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Explanation of Beach Initiative Petition

Beaches Forever, Inc.

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EXPLANATION OF BEACH INITIATIVE PETITION

Section 1. Declares that the ocean beaches shall be kept for public use and enjoyment forever.

Section 2. Defines the public beach boundary at the natural vegetation line; names the State Highway Commission as the public agency responsible for carrying out the purposes of the initiative.

Sections 3. and 4. Provide for asserting such claims as the public now has to ocean beach lands, easements and access.

Section 5. Provides for acquiring such claims as the public needs but does not now have to ocean beach lands, easement and access. It also allows a combined action or suit to carry out the purposes of Sections 3, 4 and 5, in order to expedite the procedure.

Section 6. Requires ownership of ocean beach lands to be kept forever in public hands, but allows granting of easements and privileges such as running pipelines under the beach to be authorized by law.

Section 7. Prohibits the construction of main highways on beaches or publicly owned sand spits.

Section 8. Directs the Highway Commission to police the beaches out of its operating funds -- enforcing laws and regulations regarding unauthorized motor vehicle operation and littering.

Section 9. Is a standard "savings clause" to indicate that this amendment is not intended to repeal the Seashore and Ocean Beach statutes which are already on the books.

Sections 10. and 11. Provide for a \$30 million bond issue to carry out the purposes of Section 5.

Section 12. Imposes an additional 1¢ on the fuels tax, for four years beginning January 1, 1969, to retire the bonds. Aircraft are exempted and commercial vehicle owners will be able to claim a refund of the 1¢ levied for the ocean beach purposes.

Article IX, Section 3 of the Constitution is also amended to allow the highway funds raised by this special bond issue to be expended for ocean beach lands and access.

BEACHES FOREVER, Inc.
Janet McLennan, Executive Director
5252 SW Northwood St.
Portland, Oregon 97201