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Press Release Regarding Oregon Beach Initiative Measure

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STATE TREASURER ROBERT W. STRAUB
March 21, 1968

An initiative measure to amend the Oregon Constitution to save Oregon beaches was filed today in Salem by State Treasurer Robert W. Straub along with the Committee To Save the Oregon Beaches, headed by Keith Burns and Janet McLennan of Portland, and a group of prominent conservation leaders of Oregon.

The initiative measure will provide authorization for a \$30 million bond issue. The money is to be raised by levying a one cent gasoline tax on passenger vehicles for four years. The money for the gas tax is to go into a bond sinking fund which will be used to pay the interest and retire the bonds.

Straub said that the No. 1 goal of the initiative was to act fast to preserve the dry sand portion of the Oregon beach for uninterrupted public use and enjoyment forever.

He listed the main parts of the initiative measure:

- 1) The \$30 million bond issue.
- 2) The direction of the State Highway Commission to protect, settle and confirm all areas of the ocean beach lands on which the public has acquired rights through dedication, grant, proscription, or otherwise. Where the public has not acquired these rights, the State Highway Commission is directed to purchase them. The area to be acquired for public ownership and preservation is described as "all ocean beach lands lying along the shore of the Pacific Ocean from extreme low tide to the line of natural vegetation bordering the ocean".

There also is a statement in the initiative measure which will prohibit the Highway Commission from constructing main highways on Oregon beaches.

Straub stressed that time is very short to obtain the 48,000 signatures which are needed to put this measure on the November ballot. He called for "a high priority commitment from Oregon citizens to join together in a united effort to circulate petitions and support this measure."

Straub pointed out that because of the legal process and requirements, petitions will not be ready for circulation for 25 days.

Said Straub: "This is our last, best chance to save Oregon beaches, as we have known them, for future generations and to stop the commercial encroachment and destruction of our unique and beautiful Oregon beaches."

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