



MEASURE: HB 4006X
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DATE: February 21, 2012
TO: Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
FROM: Robin Freeman, Intergovernmental Relations Associate
SUBJECT: HB 4006 – Fish and Wildlife Management

The League of Oregon Cities is an association made up of all 242 cities in Oregon. Oregon's cities are home to seventy percent of all Oregonians and eighty percent of the state's jobs and income tax collections.

The League supports HB 4006, which would require the Oregon State Fish and Wildlife Commission (the Commission), and the State Department of Fish and Wildlife to work with affected cities to mitigate the adverse impacts on local economies when the commission adds a species to the list of threatened species or endangered species pursuant to ORS 496.172.

A new listing can have a dramatic impact on a local economy, land use decisions, water usage and future development. The League believes that cities should be involved in the process of determining how to responsibly foster economic growth and development while taking into account the ecological needs of threatened and endangered species. Our members would appreciate the opportunity to consult with the Commission and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife on solutions that balance the needs of the species with the needs of the local residents.

Determinations made regarding how and when a species will be listed will not be changed. Determinations will still be based on documented and verifiable scientific information. Nothing in this bill preempts the authority of the Commission or the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, it only brings counties and cities into the conversations, and the mitigation process when adverse impacts exist for local communities.

The League of Oregon Cities supports HB 4006 and requests the Committees' support of this measure.