

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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<b>Action:</b>	Be Adopted
<b>Vote:</b>	8 - 0 - 1
<b>Yeas:</b>	Clem, Esquivel, Krieger, McKeown, Reardon, Thompson, Unger, Witt
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	Whitsett
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Beth Patrino, Administrator
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	4/9, 4/16

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Urges United States Secretary of Interior to allow enhanced management of cormorants by state of Oregon.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Fish predation by cormorants
- Increasing cormorant population
- Cormorant management programs in other states

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** The double-crested cormorant is a waterbird found near inland waterways and on the coast. They fish by swimming and diving and nest in trees, cliffs and on the ground on predator-free islands. Cormorants were historically present in Oregon. Until 1972, they were unprotected. At that time, they came under the protection of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Cormorant populations increased following this protection, the ban on DDT (which happened the same year) and increases in prey fish populations. In the mid-1980s, double-crested cormorants began using habitat created by the deposition of dredge spoils on East Sand Island and Rice Island in the lower Columbia River estuary. A number of threatened and endangered fish are affected by cormorant predation including coastal coho and several Columbia River salmon and steelhead runs.

Cormorants are protected by international treaty and federal law. However, federal regulations do allow for control actions to be taken under certain circumstances. Currently, a depredation order allows for lethal control of double-crested cormorants in 24 southern and Midwestern states. House Joint Memorial 2 would urge the United States Secretary of the Interior to allow enhanced cormorant management by the state of Oregon.