



TravelLaneCounty.org

March 31, 2015

Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

Dear Members of the Committee:

This letter is in support of SB 5511, the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife proposed budget, including provisions that result in:

1. A shift from user fees to the General Fund for programs that serve all Oregonians and not just licensees.
2. A moderated increase in license fees spread over three biennium rather than implemented all at once.
3. Implementation of combined youth license and tags to lower the cost for youth and families to fish and hunt, increasing participation.
4. Pioneer Combination license fees at \$6, the minimum required to enable possible leverage of significant federal funds for fish and wildlife management.
5. Reducing costs, and the overall budget, by reducing staff, vehicles, leases and other costs and increasing energy efficiencies.

I would like to express my appreciation for ODFW support and partnership in co-publishing "65 Places to Go Fishing in Lane County." With a very high per capital license purchase rate in Lane County, this new publication, produced and published by ODFW and Travel Lane County cooperatively, will serve both residents and visitors very well. This project was a mutually beneficial partnership that I'm sure will be replicated throughout Oregon with excellent results.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and I hope you will endorse SB5511 and move it forward.

Sincerely,

Kari Westlund  
President & CEO