



CITY OF PORTLAND
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



1120 SW Fifth Avenue, Room 1000, Portland, Oregon 97204 ■ Nick Fish, Commissioner ■ James Hagerman, Interim Director

April 16, 2015

Representative Brad Witt, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Chair Witt and Members of the Committee:

We write in favor of HB 2402 and the creation of the Task Force on State Department of Fish and Wildlife Funding. State budget decisions that impact the delivery of agency services also impact local government services.

The City of Portland's Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) works closely with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and often relies upon ODFW programs and services. The ODFW's fiscal year 2015-2017 budget proposal eliminates certain positions within the agency and shifts funding for other positions and programs from hunting and fishing license fees to the General Fund. These budget cuts negatively affect many areas of BES's work, including: watershed restoration; permitting, zoning and development; salmon recovery implementation; and Clean Water Act and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System compliance work.

As a resource agency ourselves, we understand the challenges of meeting the multiple agency objectives and stakeholder interests. We hope that this Task Force will identify new and innovative methods to ensure that all of ODFW's stakeholders are contributing to the financial security of the agency so that the fish and wildlife in Oregon can continue to thrive. The City of Portland supports the creation of a task force to address funding gaps and find creative solutions to maintain these critical services. We urge your support for HB 2402.

Sincerely,

Jim Hagerman