

Cascadia Wildlands

we like it wild.

April 16, 2015

RE: Support for HB 3474-2

Good afternoon Chair Clem and members of the committee:

My name is Josh Laughlin. I am the interim Executive Director of Eugene-based Cascadia Wildlands, which represents approximately 15,000 members and supporters throughout the region. We work to safeguard our natural environment and the outstanding values that it offers us at no cost: clean water, pure air, recreation opportunities, salmon and wildlife habitat, and our quality of life. We also work to find lasting solutions for difficult public policy challenges, which is why I'm here today.

On behalf of the large coalition I'm working with, I encourage you to **support HB 3474-2** introduced by Rep. Tobias Read, which would enact a common-sense mechanism for the State Land Board to address under performing Common School Fund trustlands throughout Oregon. The bill would allow the State Land Board, through proposals by the Department of State Lands, to transfer encumbered state trust lands to other public agencies to be managed for public benefits. Revenues from the transfers would then be invested in the \$1.5 billion Common School Fund for the sole benefit of Oregon's school kids. This is a win-win for K-12 school children in Oregon and those who value our natural environment for the myriad benefits it offers.

The trustland transfer approach is not a new concept. In Washington State, there has been a similar program on the books since 1989. Over the past 26 years, approximately \$800 million has been leveraged to move nearly 120,000 acres of encumbered trustlands out of the trust to benefit school kids and the environment.

Oregon has an opportunity this legislative session to create a new tool in managing its under performing trustlands for the benefit of K-12 education into the future.

Thanks for the opportunity today.

Sincerely,



Josh Laughlin
Interim Executive Director