



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 1, 2017

**HOUSE BILL 2213, -3 AMENDMENT (SUPPORT)**  
**Establishing an Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund**

Chair Williamson, Vice-Chairs McLane and Rayfield, and Members of the House Committee on Rules:

I urge you to vote in favor of HB 2213 with the proposed -3 amendment, which establishes an Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund and improves the state's ability to promote critical fish and wildlife conservation, management, outdoor recreation, education and related activities. Oregon's natural resource agencies are chronically underfunded and action is needed in order to protect our natural heritage for future generations.

The proposed -3 amendment to HB 2213 comes to you based on the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force on Funding for Fish, Wildlife and Related Outdoor Recreation and Education, which was created by the Legislature in 2015. HB 2213 is a necessary first step in addressing the Legislature's desire to improve the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's capacity to conserve natural resources and connect Oregonians to the outdoors. In particular, the bill would help the Department implement the Oregon Conservation Strategy, improve hunting and fishing opportunities, and expand recreation opportunities for diverse and underserved communities.

As Oregon's population grows, the complexity and costs of conservation and management of natural resources continue to increase. It is important that we act now to establish a framework to better protect and sustainably manage our state's beautiful natural resources and outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities. I strongly encourage you to vote in favor of HB 2213 with the -3 amendments.

Sincerely,

Representative Ken Helm  
House District 34

