



February 6, 2017

Senator Michael Dembrow  
Chairman  
Senate Environmental & Natural Resources Comm.  
900 Court St NE, S-407  
Salem, OR 97301

Re: SB 6, modification of trap check requirements

Dear Senator Dembrow:

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) strongly believes the changes to trapping regulation proposed by Senate Bill 6 (SB6) will adversely impact wildlife trapping as a useful wildlife management tool and suggests the bill should be tabled by the Senate Environmental and Natural Resources Committee.

We submit that a well-regulated and science-based trapping program is vital to responsible wildlife stewardship and the impacts of predators on wildlife populations. Trapping is also necessary tool in responding to human health and safety issues occasionally presented by wildlife.

Oregon has a well-regulated and managed trapping program under the direction of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), which delivers a responsive, effective and efficient public service primarily delivered by private individuals licensed by the state as trappers. Licensed private trappers help keep certain wildlife populations in check. For example, ODFW uses trapping as a predator management tool to enhance mule deer and Greater sage grouse populations. Trapping reporting activities also provide ODFW with valuable scientific field data critical to wildlife management.

RMEF believes this bill's proposed 24-hour trap check and signage requirements place an unreasonable economic burden on licensed trappers. The bill has the potential to discourage many Oregonians from trapping and negatively impact wildlife management. The 24 hour trap check requirement also applies to the trapping activities of ODFW and its agents, including the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, making their activities more expensive and less effective. Further, we believe the current trapping activity reporting system is superior in every aspect to the one proposed in SB6. The additional cost to retool the existing on-line reporting system is also an unwarranted public expense.

SB6 does nothing to enhance the public services which trapping provides and should therefore go no further in the legislative process.



RMEF is a nonprofit organization with a mission to ensure the future of elk and other wildlife, their habitat and our hunting heritage. We have more than 220,000 members nationwide and nearly 16,000 members in Oregon. We have protected and enhanced more than 7 million acres of land through greater than 10,000 projects since the organization's creation in 1984. RMEF has also secured or enhanced public access to more than one million acres for hunting and other recreation.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns about SB6.

Sincerely,

David Allen  
President & CEO