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To: The Honorable Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Senate Bill 373

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The Department appreciates the opportunity to discuss Senate Bill 373 with you today. SB 373 would create a pilot program enabling cities to petition ODFW for authorization to control over abundant deer populations within city limits.

In some urban communities of Oregon, deer have taken up residence within city limits. These situations can lead to undesirable conflicts. The presence of deer can lead to human safety issues through collision with vehicles and sometimes direct aggressive interactions with people. Additionally, these conflicts are associated with a spectrum of issues including: feeding of wildlife; differences of opinion and values regarding resident deer; and differences of opinion regarding potential solutions to the issue.

As the lead agency responsible for wildlife management, the Department currently actively works with cities and communities experiencing conflicts resulting from resident deer. As written, SB373 would codify existing processes for addressing conflicts with deer within city limits. The Department does have concerns that establishing an inflexible approach to developing solutions to control deer would add undue complications for those communities experiencing conflicts.

If passed, Senate Bill 373 would increase Department workload created during the review of petitions, oversight of carcasses handling and donation, receipt and dispersal of hides and antlers, and assessing deer populations in affected communities.

The Department appreciates the bills provision requiring cities to adopt ordinances restricting wildlife feeding or disallowing attractants for wildlife. Cities willing to pass these types of ordinances can have the greatest effect on deterring wildlife from urbanization or residing in cities.

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