

Tenney Matthew

From: Claire Puchy <cpuchy@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 11:56 AM
To: Rep Clem; Rep McLain; Rep Sprenger; Rep Barreto; Rep Esquivel; Rep McKeown; Rep Salinas; Rep Smith D; Rep.BraadWitt@oregonlegislature.gov
Cc: Hamre Jaime
Subject: House Bill 4015 Establishing Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund

February 7, 2018

TO: Representative Brian Clem, Chair, House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources
Representative Susan McLain, Vice-Chair
House Assistant Republican Leader Sherrie Sprenger, Vice-Chair
Representative Greg Barreto
Representative Sal Esquivel
Representative Caddy McKeown
Representative Andrea Salinas
Representative David Brock Smith
Representative Brad Witt

FROM: Claire A. Puchy
2596 Palisades Crest Drive
Lake Oswego, OR 97034

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of House Bill 4015

Dear Honorable Chair Clem, Vice-Chairs McLain and Sprenger, and Members of the Committee:

Although I will not be able to attend tomorrow's hearing on House Bill 4015, I am submitting testimony in support of this bill. I was appointed by Governor Kate Brown and served on the Legislative Task Force on Funding for Fish, Wildlife and Related Outdoor Recreation and Education. In addition, I was the Wildlife Diversity Program Coordinator for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) in the 1990's, and saw first-hand the importance of adequate and stable funding for the State's marvelous wildlife, habitats, and citizens. Unfortunately, the funding situation was never healthy, and it has gotten worse over the decades. The time to address this is now. Delaying will only result in additional threatened and endangered species' listings, costlier recovery efforts, decline in hunting and fishing opportunities, and failure to connect the growing number of Oregonians to nature through outdoor recreation and education.

I fully support establishing of an Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund and the deposit of \$13,000,000 General Fund into the new Fund. Although this is nowhere the amount needed to fully implement the Oregon Conservation Strategy and Nearshore Strategy, it will be a good start. It would also position the State of Oregon to match and leverage federal funding. This investment is critical if we are to address the increasing costs of conservation and management of fish, wildlife and their habitats.

I urge you to pass House Bill 4015, and thank you for your interest in this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Claire A. Puchy

