

House Committee On Agriculture and Natural Resources

Dear Chair Clem, Vice-Chairs McLain and Sprenger and committee members,

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 4015, which establishes Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund and Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee to carry out activities protecting, maintaining or enhancing fish and wildlife resources.

First let me say that the bill may have good intentions as it was developed out of a study group. However, the objectives stated in the "whereas's" are political in nature to push an agenda that may not be in the best interest of the state, and not everyone agrees with. They lost sight of how to be efficient to obtain the best results and success on broader levels.

Creates a special fund for purposes, which duplicates the purpose for funding the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, but doesn't replace or reduce that funding is fiscally not responsible. Initial General Fund monies being obligated in the next biennium is \$13 million. Pre-obligating \$13 million of taxpayer funds may result in cuts to needed social services and education.

The purpose for the funds list priorities, but then incorporates any use opening the funds for misuse. Conservation groups are already lining up to get their pet projects funded.

Adding the Advisory on top of the Commission Makes the department top heavy and unnecessarily expands government. It supposedly adds functionality to an inefficient agency, but why duplicate what the Commission should do?

Send HB 4015 back to the drawing board for streamlining for results and not busy work.

Donna Bleiler