

February 7, 2018

**House Committee on Agriculture and National Resources**  
**Representative Brian Clem, Chair**  
**900 Court Street, NE**  
**Salem, Oregon 97301**

**Re: Support for House Bill 4015 (Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund)**

Chair Clem, Vice-Chairs McLain and Sprenger and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the approximately 3,000 Oregon members and supporters of American Whitewater, I am writing to encourage the Committee's support and passage of HB 4150 to establish Oregon's Conservation and Recreation Fund.

American Whitewater and its members strongly support the protection of Oregon's rivers and streams including the fish and wildlife resources that depend on healthy waterways. We believe that the work of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, as it relates to the state's Conservation Strategy, must be funded in a way that further enables the protection of habitat, at-risk species and encourages new stewards of our natural landscapes and waterways.

Recreationists of all types play a significant role in protecting Oregon's natural resources; hunting, fishing, bird watching, hiking, mountaineering, skiing, bicycling and paddling all play a role as stewards of our natural resources.

It is appropriate that we form a strategy that utilizes the recommendations of HB 2402 (2016): Joint Interim Task Force for Fish, [Wildlife and related Outdoor Recreation and Education](#), to achieve our joint conservation and recreation goals.

American Whitewater is also excited to see a pathway to achieving a balance between recreation and conservation outcomes and an opportunity to create meaningful alliances amongst diverse organizations and agencies in the state of Oregon.

Sincerely,

**Thomas O'Keefe**  
American Whitewater Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director