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February 12, 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 3,200 members of the Mazamas, I am writing to encourage the Committee's support and passage of HB 4015 to establish Oregon's Conservation and Recreation Fund.

We care about the future of Oregon's fish and wildlife just as much as we care about protecting our mountains and glaciers. 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 protects habitat, at-risk species and develops new stewards of the land. Recreationists of all stripes are a big part of that equation, and hunting, fishing, bird watching, as well as hiking, mountaineering, skiing, bicycling and paddling all have their place in protecting Oregon's natural resources.

We recognize the need to fully fund ODFW and other agencies that protect our landscapes and waterways by ensuring that Oregon's ecosystems and biodiversity remain intact in perpetuity. It is equally important that natural resource agencies strive to maintain and enhance our recreation infrastructure on all public lands. Therefore, we are excited to see that the OCR Fund creates a pathway to achieving that balance.

It is pivotal that we create a plan that utilizes the recommendations of HB 2402 (2016) Joint Interim Task Force for Fish, Wildlife and Related Outdoor Recreation and Education. Oregonians deserve a funding mechanism for conservation and recreation that is not dependent solely upon federal funding but serves as a force multiplier to achieve our common goals.

Sincerely,

Adam Baylor  
Mazamas Stewardship & Advocacy Manager