



# Oregon

Kate Brown., Governor

## Department of Fish and Wildlife

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**To:** The Honorable Brad Witt, Chair  
House Committee on Natural Resources



### House Bill 2072

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Dr. Colin Gillin, State Wildlife Veterinarian

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

The Department appreciates the opportunity to discuss House Bill 2072 with you today. House Bill 2072 authorizes State Department of Fish and Wildlife to operate wildlife inspection stations for purposes of preventing spread of nationally important infectious diseases harmful to the state's wildlife and furthering wildlife management efforts.

Oregon's wildlife is a cherished resource and serves as a major cultural, aesthetic, and economic asset to our residents who recreate in the outdoors. There are risks to this resource related to the movement of animals or animal parts and their associated diseases across state boundaries. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) of wild ungulates in the family cervidae (deer, elk, and moose) is considered one of the most important wildlife diseases facing the nation, now present in 26 states, 4 Canadian provinces, and 3 continents. CWD is a neurological disease passed among susceptible animals or from contact with their environment. There is no evidence that CWD is transmissible to humans, nor are there any documented cases of human infection. Attempts to eradicate CWD have failed, and efforts to control its spread, including herd reduction, have had limited success.

Active and focused monitoring and sampling are critical preventative measures for catching the disease early. HB 2072 provides the Department the ability to require motorists transporting wildlife to stop for inspection and sampling. OAR (635-065-0765) prohibits the transport and importation of specific cervid carcasses or parts (brain and spinal columns) from another state or country. Annually there are cases where people have transported prohibited parts into Oregon. Wildlife check stations will enhance the ability to detect and prevent the import of whole carcasses or prohibited parts. HB 2072 will also provide employees of the Department the ability to collect other valuable data from harvested wildlife and make contact with hunters.

Poaching, otherwise known as the unlawful take of wildlife, continues to be a problem in Oregon. Unlawfully taken wildlife is often transported by vehicle from kill or catch site to residence or other delivery point. Wildlife Check stations can work as a deterrent to poaching and other illegal activities. Wildlife check stations provide the most effective and efficient opportunity to monitor compliance of lawful transportation and harvest of wildlife, directly communicate with the angling and hunting public, and enforce the wildlife laws to include the unlawful importation of deer, elk or moose harvested from known CWD states.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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