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Protecting Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and waters since 1974.

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Oregon State Legislature
Oregon State Capitol
House Committee on Natural Resources
900 Court Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

February 18, 2019

Sent via email to:

LPRO Analyst: Kailey Kornhauser

Committee Assistant: Shelley Raszka

Oregon Wild Written Testimony Re: Fish and Wildlife Commission Requirements, HB 2747

Dear Chairman Witt and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of more than 20,000 Oregon Wild members and supporters from across the state, we would like to submit written testimony for your consideration on HB 2747, a bill that seeks to institutionalize conflicts of interest on the state Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission).

Oregon Wild strongly opposes HB 2747, and any legislation which eliminates the Commission's ability to make decisions driven by best available science for the enhancement and recovery of our state's fish and wildlife.

Passage of this bill would statutorily require a majority of Commission seats to be represented by extractive industries and special interests; which have an economic interest in policy outcomes that are at odds with the statutory mission of the Commission. Allowing this would undermine the effectiveness of the Commission to represent broad public values.

The purpose of the Commission is to formulate general state programs and policies concerning management and conservation of fish and wildlife resources and establish seasons, methods and bag limits for recreational and commercial take. For far too long, the Commission has been a place for industry and special interests to disproportionately influence policy at the expense of the public interest, and it is partly responsible for the agency losing the trust of the public and its suffering budget. Mandating that members of the Commission represent those with a vested economic interest will completely erode the ability of the Commission to be an independent decision-making body.

Chairman Witt and Members of the Committee, for these and other reasons Oregon Wild believes HB 2747 to be a misguided bill that would undermine fish and wildlife recovery and enhancement in our state.

Sincerely,

Danielle Moser
Wildlife Program Coordinator
Oregon Wild