



Oregon

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



House Bill 2841

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Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

The Department appreciates the opportunity to discuss House Bill 2841 with you today. House Bill 2841 makes changes to public records law and establishes a retroactive date to which the criteria and public records exemptions are validated.

House Bill 2841 gives the Department the ability to restrict the disclosure of information about listed or proposed for listing, sensitive, threatened or endangered fish and wildlife species and their habitat when the information relates to locations where the species or habitat are vulnerable to harm or detrimental disturbance.

House Bill 2841 expands the Department's ability to limit disclosure of information resulting from data collection efforts when the information is capable of compromising an individual or species. It also provides for limiting the disclosure of information provided voluntarily by private landowners. These provisions are subject to specific criteria centered on conditions that could or have resulted in malicious, unlawful, or harmful activities.

House Bill 2841 also identifies entities and individuals which the Department can choose to share sensitive information described above under a signed confidentiality agreement, and affirms the Department's commitment to honoring existing data sharing commitments and obligations such as those described in species management plans.

The Department receives public records requests that include location and other information that jeopardizes the wellbeing of individual fish and wildlife individuals or populations, compromises research and monitoring efforts, or creates a competitive advantage. HB 2841 would allow the Department to continue to collect data at a resolution needed to adequately manage Oregon's fish

and wildlife resources without putting them at risk if certain information were disclosed. The retroactive date ensures pending requests are subject to the provisions of HB 2841.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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