

March 7, 2019

Representatives Ken Helm (Chair), E. Werner Reschke, Sheri Schouten (Vice Chairs)  
House Committee on Energy & Environment, Oregon State Legislature

*Statement of support for HB 2250: Requiring certain state agencies to regularly assess proposed and final changes to federal environment laws to determine whether changes are significantly less protective of public health, environment or natural resources than standards and requirements contained in those federal environmental laws, as in effect on January 19, 2017.*

Dear Representatives,

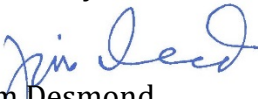
I write on behalf of The Nature Conservancy to recognize the leadership of Governor Kate Brown in defending our nation's bedrock environmental principles and laws, and express support for HB 2250.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a global, science-based, non-partisan conservation organization operating in all 50 states in the United States and over 70 countries globally. Our mission is to protect the lands and waters on which all life depends. Since 1961, we have led one of the largest conservation efforts in Oregon. We are proud of our conservation track record in Oregon, which includes helping to protect over 511,000 acres of land, 425 miles of rivers and streams, and marine protected areas and reserves covering 9.7% of territorial sea statewide. We have been able to do so with the help of a dynamic board of trustees representing many businesses and communities, and over 70,000 supporters and members in every county in Oregon.

Oregon is celebrated for our incredible biodiversity as well for the critical steps taken to ensure the vitality of our forests, freshwater, desert, grasslands and ocean. Pioneering protections such as landmark land-use planning laws, coupled with strategic investments made by Oregon's natural resources agencies over the years, continue to serve Oregon and our communities well. HB 2250 ensures this unwavering commitment to nature and people is strengthened in the face of current challenges.

As a matter of national policy concern, The Nature Conservancy is already strategically engaged to advance our agenda and defend core environmental principles, values, and policies ranging from public lands protections to advocating for regulatory certainty. We appreciate the thoughtful approach and engagement undertaken by Governor Brown with respect to HB 2250. We urge your favorable consideration of HB 2250 and support to state agencies tasked with the responsibility of conducting assessments as envisioned in this legislation.

Sincerely,

  
Jim Desmond  
State Director

Cc: The Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon