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March 11, 2019

House Committee On Natural Resources
Chair Representative Witt, Co-Vice Chairs Representative Gorsek,
Representative Sprenger, Members of the Committee.
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: SUPPORT FOR HB 2829

On behalf of the 3,500 members of the Mazamas, I am writing to encourage the Committee's support and passage of HB 2829 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,

Sarah Bradham

Acting Executive Director - Mazamas