



## OREGON CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB

1821 SE ANKENY ST • PORTLAND, OR 97214  
PHONE (503) 238-0442 • FAX (503) 238-6281  
OREGON.CHAPTER@SIERRACLUB.ORG  
WWW.OREGON.SIERRACLUB.ORG

To: Members of the House Committee on Natural Resources  
From: Rhett Lawrence, Sierra Club, Oregon Chapter  
Date: March 14, 2019  
RE: House Bill 2829

Chair Witt and Members of the Committee: My name is Rhett Lawrence and I'm the Conservation Director for the Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club. On behalf of the more than 25,000 Sierra Club members in Oregon, I am pleased to submit these comments in support of House Bill 2829.

As an organization with a long history of working to protect wildlife and recreational opportunities in our state, we believe HB 2829 is long overdue. As you know, this bill would create a Conservation and Recreation Fund, with an initial appropriation of \$17 million, to help fund the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Sierra Club believes this bill would help diversify ODFW's funding across a wider spectrum of Oregonians and result in greater emphasis on non-game wildlife management.

Notwithstanding ODFW's responsibility to manage fish and wildlife in the state for the benefit of all people of the state, for too long it has had to depend too much on the sale of hunting and fishing licenses for its revenue. This results in hunters and fishermen paying disproportionately for fish and wildlife management. A further consequence of that imbalance is that ODFW then sees its wildlife management obligations as largely for the benefit of hunters and anglers, to the exclusion of many other Oregonians' concerns. While the Sierra Club counts many hunters and anglers among its members, we also believe that our non-hunting and fishing members' voices should be better reflected in ODFW's mission and focus.

House Bill 2829 would help take financial pressure off hunters and anglers, and it would allow ODFW to serve the needs of a broader constituency. For these reasons, the Sierra Club believes that HB 2829 makes a ton of sense for Oregon. We therefore strongly support this bill and urge Committee members to do the same. Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide this testimony and please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance to the Committee.