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March 12, 2019

TO: Joint Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
Jwmnr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

FROM: Oregon Cattlemen's Association

RE: HB 5510 Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Budget, Additional Funding for Local Implementation Teams Coordination

Dear Co-Chair Taylor, Co-Chair Reardon and members of the Subcommittee on Natural Resources,

Oregon Cattlemen's Association (OCA) is submitting this written testimony in support of HB 5510 and to encourage amending this bill to provide \$200,000 of necessary funding which has been identified of highest priority amongst Oregon's SageCon partners to enable ODFW to staff state planned Local Implementation Team (LIT) Coordinator positions within the Burns and Lakeview BLM Districts.

LIT facilitation and coordination efforts to align "on-the-ground" conservation actions amongst local stakeholders, state, and federal efforts benefiting the Greater Sage-Grouse specie are of critical social and economic importance to both Lake and Harney Counties which comprise critical core habitat areas of Oregon's sage-grouse population. Both Lake and Harney County have demonstrated significant and very active state leadership in their achievement of long-term private landowner enrollment participation in federal ESA Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAAs), juniper treatments, invasives management, post-wildfire habitat recovery, and other conservation actions important to sage-grouse specie protection.

ODFW's staffing of LIT Coordinator positions in the Burns and Lakeview areas will best insure ongoing working coordination efficiencies amongst our local, state, and federal partners, collaboration, knowledge sharing, and conservation actions important to the sage-grouse specie, local communities, Oregon's cattlemen, and other multiple-use stakeholders of Oregon.

Please pass HB 5510 amended with an additional \$200,000 of funding to enable coordination of the Burns and Lakeview Local Implementation Teams.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Sharp', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tom Sharp

Chair, Harney County Sage-Grouse CCAA Steering Committee
Chair, Oregon Cattlemen's Association ESA Committee
President-elect, Oregon Cattlemen's Association