



Volunteer

14 March 2019

Subject: Testimony before the House Natural Resource Committee - HB 2829

Representative Witt and members of the House Natural Resources Committee

I am David Wiley, a Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation member and volunteer. I live in Sublimity, Oregon.

Today I am speaking for more than 17,000 Oregon Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation members when I say to you on The Elk Foundation supports HB 2829. The bill will establish the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund to increase funding for among other things, wildlife and fisheries conservation and management.

Since conservation became a fact it has been hunters and fishers buying licenses and tags that has provide most of the funding for species conservation of fish and wildlife, game or non-game, it made no difference. The sports paid the freight. They did not quibble. They were proud to do what others would not do. However, it was a time when a much higher number of our population hunted and fished.

Today the number of hunters and fishers is in decline, and conservation requirements have multiplied many times, and as their numbers decline so has the revenue from license and tag sales. An increase in revenue is needed to meet the public's increase demand for conservation services, particularly for non-game species conservation. Hunters and fishers are tapped out.

HB 2829 proposes the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund as a means for Oregon to provide increased funding for conservation of wildlife and fisheries and to increase the education of the public to increase their connection to the outdoors and its wildlife and fisheries. An infusion of General Funding is proposed as match for federal revenue which is on the horizon. It is time for Oregon to step forward and improve the stewardship of its native wildlife and fisheries which it holds in trust for its citizens.

Please vote HB 2829 out of committee with a do-pass recommendation.

Thank you.

Questions?