

Willamette RIVERKEEPER®

Testimony to the Oregon State Legislature - House Committee on Natural Resources

Re: HB 3327

Chair Witt, Co-Chairs Gorsek and Sprenger, and Committee Members:

On behalf of Willamette Riverkeeper and our members throughout Oregon, I write to encourage you to support HB 3327. Independent Scientific Reviews (ISR) are at times an important part of natural resource decision-making.

In Oregon, as in other states, occasionally complex natural resource questions come to the fore that require in-depth analysis. Conducting an ISR on a key issue or complex problem can be an essential pathway to making the right decision for our State's water, air, wildlife and more. Whether one is looking at natural resource issues related to native fish, the intricacies of toxic pollutants in our environment, or the need to protect long-lived freshwater mussels, conducting an ISR can be critical depending on the situation.

SB 202 passed in 2015 and created a task force to evaluate the need for an Independent Scientific Review Board (ISRB), and found that such a Board would be a benefit to the State of Oregon. Willamette Riverkeeper agrees with the need for an ISRB, and believe it will be a benefit to Oregon.

Thank you all for this opportunity to provide our views on HB 3327. We appreciate your service to the State of Oregon, and your thoughtfulness regarding this and other issues.

Sincerely,



Travis Williams
Riverkeeper & Executive Director