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H-277

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To: House Committee on Natural Resources

House Bill 3327 creates the Independent Scientific Review Board in Oregon.

In 2015, SB 202 established a taskforce to “evaluate and assess” the need for independent scientific review in Oregon and was charged with making recommendations on the following criteria:

1. Assessing the need for independent scientific review in Oregon;
2. Making recommendations on one or more entities that are best situated to conduct or coordinate independent scientific review if taskforce determines need;
3. Making recommendations regarding the structure and function of the recommended entities.

In September 2016, the task force released their findings coming to the conclusion that:

- There IS a need for independent scientific review of complex, multi-disciplinary, and controversial natural resource issues and the existing resources are not adequate for these specific types of reviews;
- Oregon’s independent scientific review process should have legislative authority;
- The independent scientific review process should be appropriately-resourced;
- The independent scientific review process should primarily focus on complex, multiagency, interdisciplinary science issues that are important to the state.

These specific findings have served as the guidelines for House Bill 3327 which:

- Creates the Oregon Independent Science Review Board.
- Establishes the Independent Scientific Review Secretariat as an administrative section within the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University.
- Establishes the Independent Scientific Review Fund within the HECC

I believe that having an established process for independent scientific reviews is incredibly important to defending our state’s natural resources while also mitigating the social and environmental impacts that can come from poorly-informed studies.

As the study accurately states “**social and environmental costs and impacts of poorly-informed natural resource policies can be mitigated by bringing the best available relevant science to bear via rigorous, systematic review and synthesis and timely presentation of findings...**”

Representative Paul Holvey  
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