



# OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

## Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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March 16, 2021

Re: HB 2600, HB 2913 House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Dear Chair Witt and members of the Committee,

Good afternoon, my name is Ken McCall, Vice President of Oregon Hunters Association.

The Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) is here today in support of the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF) to benefit the state's wildlife, diverse habitats and recreation opportunity. OHA supports both HB 2600 and HB 2913.

From the onset, OHA has been actively engaged with OCRF, and has encouraged hunter conservationists to support the fund because we believe new and more diverse funding sources will benefit all wildlife, increase recreational opportunities, and bring fresh new outdoor proponents to Oregon's great outdoor resource traditions.

Hunters and anglers are primary and traditional forms of recreation that have largely funded state wildlife management programs to date. Similarly, hunters are among Oregon's premier conservationists and are long-standing supporters of wildlife and natural resource conservation. Early in OCRF fund raising hunters and anglers simply checked off a box at to donate to OCRF while buying their annual licenses and tags. OHA supports OCRF's goals to spread conservation funding in Oregon across a wider range of interested supporters.

It is clear the OCRF advisory committee has worked diligently to expand the funding options for the benefit of the program goals and our citizens. We are pleased to be part of the growing list of funded projects and look forward to further opportunity to participate in projects with expanded and matching funding sources. We will also continue our work funding projects that reflect the conservation and recreational interests of our conservation partners through OCRF.

Given a choice, OHA prefers restoring the \$1 million general fund match commitment made in 2019, simply because a large segment of Oregonians already believes their general fund dollars wholly support wildlife management. We also support eliminating the sunset on OCRF to allow developing this unique new funding approach into a more inclusive outdoor environment for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Ken McCall, Vice President

Oregon Hunters Association.

**/s/ Ken McCall**