



**ROCKY MOUNTAIN
ELK FOUNDATION**

30 March 2021

Testimony Before the Oregon House Natural Resources Committee

Subject: HB 3152 – Authority for ODFW to operate wildlife inspection stations

Chairman Witt and Members of the Committee:

I am David Wiley a member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. I live in Sublimity, Oregon. Today I am speaking for The Elk Foundation.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is here before you to recommend HB 3152 be approved and passed out of committee. with a do-pass recommendation.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is pleased see the State of Oregon considering a measure to help protect its wildlife populations from importation of infectious disease like CWD which can infect deer, elk and moose, is always fatal and for which there is no known retreatment. Having the check station tool in the wildlife management tool bag is essential.

Oregon does not have Chronic Wasting Disease in its deer and elk populations, and it must be vigilant to keep it that way. Twenty-six states and 3 Canadian provinces do have CWD in their deer and elk populations and some Oregon hunters hunt in those infected areas. ODFW needs check station authority to effectively perform its duties to insure protection of the state's wildlife from importation of the CWD and other diseases on meat and animal parts.

Check stations are also extremely effective and efficient in collection of critical game management data regarding health and demographics.

Questions?

Thank you,

Dave Wiley

The MISSION of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat, and our hunting heritage. Nationally RMEF has more than 234,000 members in more than 500 chapters. Within Oregon RMEF has more than 15,000 members in 23 chapters statewide. In Oregon, since 1986, RMEF and its partners have protected and enhanced 850,057 acres of habitat and opened 135,046 acres for public access; a value of \$72.1 million of which \$7,319,233 was provided by Oregon RMEF members