The Oregon State Police Fish and Wildlife Division (OSPFWD) is providing written testimony regarding Senate Bill 841.  The OSPFWD is neutral on this bill but would like to provide the following information in regards to the Department of Justice's Environmental and Cultural Resources Enforcement Unit (ECREU).

The OSPFWD has a long history of working in close partnership with DOJ's ECREU.  Throughout that time, the ECREU has been a resource to the division by offering guidance and support for criminal cases that include air and water pollution, poaching of wildlife, and cultural crimes.

Environmental crimes are often complex, lengthy, and involve multiple states and counties.  The ECREU works to facilitate the prosecution of these cases between the different jurisdictions and acts as a resource to the local District Attorney's offices that may not have the time, resources, or expertise on environmental law.  The expertise the ECREU provides towards the prosecution can be crucial in having a successful outcome.

A key component of the anti-poaching initiative the Oregon legislature implemented in 2019 was providing another attorney within the ECREU to address some of the larger wildlife poaching investigations developed by the OSPFWD.  The impact of this additional attorney is yet to be realized.

The ECREU also assists the OSPFWD and other agencies by providing training on various environmental law topics.  This has helped foster a better understanding of the environmental laws within the OSPFWD.

Listed below are links to some of the press releases the ECREU has helped to prosecute for the OSPFWD:

https://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2020/06_June/062320b.asp

https://www.oregonlive.com/pacific-northwest-news/2016/04/passerby_sees_man_brazenly_gut.html

https://www.oregonlive.com/environment/2017/10/oregon_and_washington_poaching.html

https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/investigations/2015/09/25/whistle-blower-talks-corruption-pollution-portland-factory/72838042/

https://www.kptv.com/news/portland-mechanic-sentenced-to-jail-for-using-simulator-to-pass-deq-tests/article_9baa7797-b099-5beb-a632-47d14f51c504.html