



Oregon

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**To: The Honorable Brad Witt, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources**



House Bill 3152

Dr. Doug Cottam, Wildlife Division Administrator

Dr. Colin Gillin, State Wildlife Veterinarian

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

The department appreciates the opportunity to discuss House Bill 3152 with you today and we have no position on the bill. House Bill 3152 authorizes the department to operate wildlife inspection stations for purposes of preventing spread of nationally important infectious diseases harmful to the state's wildlife and furthering wildlife management efforts.

Oregon's wildlife resources are at risk from several sources including poaching and the movement of animals or animal parts and their associated diseases across state boundaries. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) of wild ungulates in the family cervidae (deer, elk, and moose) is considered one of the most important wildlife diseases facing the nation, now present in at least 26 states and 4 Canadian provinces. CWD is a neurological disease passed among susceptible animals or from contact with an infected environment. Attempts to eradicate CWD have failed, and efforts to control its spread, including herd reduction, have had limited success. The most effective prevention measure for this devastating disease is a solid surveillance plan and effective control before CWD enters the state. ODFW veterinary and management staff believe check stations would provide another very important protective layer to keeping Oregon's wildlife healthy.

Active sampling and focused monitoring are critical preventative measures for catching diseases early. HB 3152 provides the department the ability to require motorists transporting wildlife to stop for inspection and sampling. Although Oregon Administrative Rule (635-065-0765) prohibits the transport and importation of specific cervid carcasses or parts from another state or country, there are cases every year where people have transported carcasses or parts into Oregon. Wildlife check stations will enhance the ability to detect and prevent the import of carcasses or prohibited parts by allowing uniformed department employees to set up the stations on roads where people transport

wildlife. Check stations would also provide critical surveillance opportunity for detection of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus, and other emerging infectious diseases posing a threat to Oregon's wildlife and livestock. Check stations could prove instrumental in surveillance for prohibited species that might carry globally important zoonotic diseases. HB 3152 will also provide employees of the department the ability to collect other valuable data from harvested wildlife and make contact with hunters.

Poaching, otherwise known as the unlawful take of wildlife, continues to be a problem in Oregon. Unlawfully taken wildlife is often transported by vehicle from the kill or catch site to a residence or other delivery points. Wildlife check stations can work as a deterrent to poaching and other illegal activities. Wildlife check stations provide a more effective and efficient opportunity to monitor compliance of lawful harvest and transportation of wildlife, an opportunity to directly communicate with the angling and hunting public, and enforce the wildlife laws to include the unlawful importation of prohibited parts of deer, elk or moose harvested from other states.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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