



**OREGON CHAPTER OF
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

PO Box 2378
Corvallis, OR 97339

FROM: The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society

TO: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

SUBJECT: Support for HB3152

Chair Witt and committee members,

The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society (ORTWS) appreciates your consideration of HB3152 and the opportunity to provide comments. ORTWS would like to express our support of this bill. The continued spread of invasive species and wildlife disease threatens the health of ecological systems, as well as the livelihood of many Oregonians.

The Wildlife Society is an international organization founded in 1937, representing nearly 10,000 professionals, including scientists, managers, educators, technicians, planners, consultants, conservation officers, students and others who manage, conserve, and study wildlife populations and habitat. In Oregon, the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society (ORTWS) represents nearly 500 such professionals from many areas of public and private enterprise. Our mission is to promote wise conservation and management of wildlife resources in Oregon by serving and representing natural resource professionals. A central purpose of ORTWS is to support scientifically sound management policies.

We are in support of HB3152 because it would allow the State Department of Fish and Wildlife to operate wildlife inspection “check” stations for the purposes of preventing spread of infections and/or infestations harmful to wildlife or that may hinder wildlife management efforts.

The aggressive spread of diseases such as chronic wasting disease and hoof rot, have shifted from emerging issues, to a serious crisis in North American wildlife management. The establishment of check stations is a prudent and sensible step for quick detection of wildlife diseases. Rapid detection of contagious diseases will help the State Department of Fish and Wildlife to detect and prevent the spread of these diseases which could seriously deplete Oregon’s wildlife populations and may potentially cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to control and eradicate. In contrast, the price of check stations and cooperative assistance from hunters for their time investment at the station is relatively minimal.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Regards,

ORTWS Board of Directors

ORTWS Contacts for HB3152:

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