



Testimony of Oregon Wildlife Coalition on HB 2286  
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

April 13th, 2021

Chair Witt, Vice Chairs Hudson and Breese-Iverson and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Oregon Wildlife Coalition -- a group of nine conservation organizations working proactively and collaboratively to advocate for policies that are science-based, humane, and reflect the state's conservation values -- we submit this testimony regarding HB 2286.

We understand that HB 2286 may simply be a vehicle for another legislative concept. However, since it has been scheduled for public hearing without posted amendments, we take it at face value for now. We support the general concept suggested by HB 2286; namely, to have a task force composed of legislators, wildlife managers, conservationists, and ODFW staff review and make recommendations about wildlife management in the state. Such a task force could be another vehicle for shifting wildlife management in Oregon to serve a broader constituency, including non-consumptive users.

However, we do have a few concerns about the bill as drafted:

1. The bill is not clear on which management practices or programs the task force would be responsible for reviewing. For example, is the objective to analyze and provide input on all wildlife management decisions in the state? To review only policies that derive from legislative action or Fish and Wildlife Commission rulemaking? Similarly, is this just restricted to active management decisions or would this task force be expected to provide input on species recovery efforts as well? We welcome further clarity on the task force's roles and responsibilities.
2. We also have concerns about the proposed timeline in the bill. First, having worked with the Governor and Senate on board and commission appointments, we know first-hand some of the challenges associated with that process and why expecting a quick turn around might be difficult. Secondly, and based on receiving further clarity about the task force's role and responsibilities, it could be rather arduous to comb through all wildlife management activities in Oregon on such a short timeline. In order to allow for thorough,

thoughtful and science-based recommendations, more time should be allotted.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments and encourage you to address our concerns before voting in support of HB 2286.

Thank you,

The Oregon Wildlife Coalition  
*Cascadia Wildlands*  
*Center for Biological Diversity*  
*Defenders of Wildlife*  
*Humane Society of the United States*  
*Humane Voters Oregon*  
*Oregon Wild*  
*Portland Audubon*  
*Western Environmental Law Center*  
*Wild Earth Guardians*

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