



Support HB 2068 Without Amendments

Our coalition asks for your support of HB 2068, which removes the sunset on the Landowner Preference (LOP) tag program within the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Our organizations have been long-time supporters of the program, and have engaged in careful and thoughtful negotiations surrounding the parameters of the program since its inception. The LOP program exists to recognize the many important contributions of landowners to feeding, sheltering, and providing habitat for our state's wildlife. Indeed, agricultural and forestry lands provide among the richest habitat for our state's wildlife, with farmers and ranchers supplying a significant portion of feed and habitat for our deer, elk and other wildlife.

As a result, farmers and ranchers across the state experience millions of dollars in depredation damage related to deer, elk and other wildlife, which our state does not provide compensation for. The LOP program was developed to help recognize landowners' important contributions to providing food, shelter and habitat for our state's wildlife, and exists to ensure that landowners or their designees have access to their property for hunting outside of the state's ordinary controlled hunt system. While this ensures that landowners receive some ability to have hunting access for themselves or their designees, it does not grant landowners any private right to the state's wildlife or otherwise upset the public ownership of wildlife.

This program, including the ability to transfer the tags, was carefully negotiated by landowner, hunting and conservation groups over the course of several years, and should not be amended to make any changes to the program.

Thank you for your consideration, and please vote YES on HB 2068 as drafted.

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