



Oregon

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**To: The Honorable Jeff Golden, Chair
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery**



**House Bill 3152
Dr. Doug Cottam, Wildlife Division Administrator
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 makes provisions to the operation of wildlife check stations. The department regularly operates two annual, voluntary-stop wildlife check stations for purposes of detecting and preventing spread of infectious diseases to the state's wildlife and for furthering wildlife management efforts.

The most effective prevention measure for preventing disease is a solid surveillance plan and effective control before diseases such as chronic wasting disease (CWD) enters into or spreads within the state. ODFW veterinary and management staff believe mandatory-stop wildlife check stations for people who are transporting wildlife would provide a very important protective layer to keeping Oregon's wildlife healthy.

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 enhance the ability to detect 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. In addition, wildlife check stations provide employees of the department the ability to collect valuable data from harvested wildlife and make contact with hunters.

Poaching, 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 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 your consideration of HB 3152 today and for the opportunity to testify.

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