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**NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS**

1783 Buerkle Circle  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55110  
(651) 773-2000  
(651) 773-5500 FAX

Dear Subcommittee on Natural Resources Members,

Please accept this letter supporting HB 5009, and more specifically the ODFW budget request included in the Governor's recommended budget that includes the allocation of \$200K of Lottery or other State Funds to match \$800K in federal funds as part of the 2021-23 biennium budget. This funding is used to partner with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to hire staff that develop relationships with landowner and create projects that direct federal Farm Bill conservation program funding towards wildlife and other conservation priorities. In 2020 alone Oregon received \$22.7 million through the Environmental Incentives Program and had nearly \$400,000 acres of lands enrolled in CRP bringing approximately \$23 million in rental payments for rural landowners. Pheasants Forever Inc. works closely with both ODFW as a partner implementing habitat restoration projects and with NRCS who administers the Farm Bill conservation program funding. As the largest upland bird conservation organization in the country, we have chapters and members located throughout Oregon. Pheasants Forever strongly supports this bill and the Governor's proposed budget of \$200,000 in Lottery or other State Funds. We support this investment of public resources into ODFW due to the expansion of the impact this investment brings back into Oregon and the benefits rural communities within Oregon receive. This investment will secure \$4 of federal funding for every \$1 of state funds allocated, with additional conservation benefits to rural Oregon landscapes provided by the voluntary conservation programs offered to landowners through the Farm Bill. This return on investment is amplified by conservation benefits for Oregon wildlife that can be directed towards Oregon's wildlife priorities through Farm Bill conservation programs. Without this proposed funding ODFW would not be able to invest financial resources into these staff to generate projects and ensure future funding is not redirected to other states.

In summary, Pheasants Forever Inc. supports HB 5009 to continue leveraging state resources with federal resources that provides an economic stimulus for rural Oregon while also improving wildlife habitat and increasing conservation efforts throughout rural Oregon.

Sincerely,

Al Eiden  
West Region Director  
Pheasants Forever/ Quail Forever