

## OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

## Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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February 28, 2023

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water Re: HB 2799

Chair Helm, Vice-chairs Hartman and Owens, Members of the Committee,

Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) is Oregon's largest state-centric hunter conservation organization, representing 10,000 sportsmen and women throughout 26 chapters in the state. Our mission statement is 'to protect Oregon's wildlife, habitat, and hunting heritage' and we have a strong history of advocating for science-based wildlife management.

OHA supports HB 2799 with the -1 amendment specific to the inclusion of wildlife-friendly fencing where applicable. OHA members volunteer countless hours around the state replacing traditional fencing options with wildlife-friendly structures that allow ease of movement and access to habitat for wildlife.

Wildlife-friendly fencing is traditionally defined as fencing that allows for additional space between the bottom wire and the ground, flagging or high-visibility wire, and limiting the overall height of the fence. These simple measures allow wildlife to travel freely, particularly in areas of migration between critical range habitats.

HB 2799 is focused on protecting livestock and motorists along state highways in areas of open range. OHA is supportive of this concept and is encouraged by the willingness of the bill sponsors to include an amendment that also takes wildlife migration and movement into consideration.

OHA urges the committee's support for HB 2799.

Thank you,

Amy Patrick OHA Policy Director