



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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April 27, 2023

Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Education
RE: HB 5025

Co-chairs Frederick and McLain, Members of the Committee,

The 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 5025, specific to the investments in funding for the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (OVDL) at Oregon State University. As a facility fully accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnostics, the OVDL provides an immense value to Oregonians. The breadth of testing the OVDL processes benefits not just Oregonians but also our wildlife and environment.

OHA currently has HB 2532 before the Joint Committee on Ways & Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources, which requests funding for the OVDL, as well as the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, specific to Chronic Wasting Disease. The investments in increased capacity at the OVDL will assist in our efforts through HB 2532 to establish in-state testing and research for a disease that has the potential to devastate Oregon's ungulate populations.

Thank you,
Amy Patrick
Policy Director