



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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Chair Clem and Members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

For the record, I am Al Elkins representing the Oregon Hunters Association. The Oregon Hunters Association supports HB 4015, a bill that establishes the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (Conservation Fund). In addition to the fund establishment the bill calls for the creation of an advisory committee to oversee the fund and its allotments.

In general, HB 4015 provides an addition to ODFW's traditional sources of funding (hunting and fishing fees). As you may recall, the establishment of this fund was one of the main recommendations of the Funding for Fish, Wildlife and Related Recreation Task Force. This Task Force was established to meet the challenges of finding alternatives to the traditional ODFW funding sources (hunting and fishing fees).

As written HB 4015 allocates thirteen million dollars in general fund monies to the Conservation Fund. The bill also provides a system whereby monies (estimated at fifty-two million) from the anticipated passage of the Federal "Recovering America's Wildlife Act" (H.R. 4647) would be received.

This bill is in line with one of the goals of the "protecting Oregon's wildlife, habitat and hunting heritage" mission statement of the Oregon Hunters Association and that is: "OHA's current focus is ensuring sound and scientific management of all huntable wildlife."

The Oregon Hunters Association asks for your support for HB 4015.

That concludes my testimony, I will be glad to answer any questions.