

February 18, 2015

House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

RE: HB 2503

Dear Members of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

The Oregon Chapter of the Wildlife Society is an organization of professional biologists, land managers, scientists, and others interested in wildlife issues that promote the conservation and wise management of natural resources in Oregon. Part of our mission is to educate and inform the public on topics important to the conservation of natural resources and to promote decision-making with science-based information.

House Bill 2503 prohibits public bodies from regulating hunting ammunition, fishing gear and angling equipment unless authorized by statute. Wildlife (game and non-game) should be managed based upon the current best available scientific information. Since HB 2503 would take away the ability of state agencies to apply this information to manage and protect wildlife through regulation of hunting and fishing equipment ORTWS does not support this bill.

Respectfully,

Fran Cafferata Coe

ORTWS President 2014-2015