



Support HB 2399

Establish the Condon Collection at the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History as Oregon State Museum of Paleontology

In 1935, the Legislature established the anthropological collection at the University of Oregon as the Oregon State Museum of Anthropology (OSMA), the official repository of state-owned anthropological collections. That legislation has helped to keep Oregon's deep history from being exported to museums around the world. The OSMA is now a division of the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History (MNCH). HB 2399 would replicate that that official designation for the Condon Fossil Collection, establishing it as the Oregon State Museum of Paleontology.

About the Condon Collection:

The Condon Fossil Collection is a division of MNCH. It is based on the teaching collection brought to Eugene by Thomas Condon in 1876. It has now grown to more than 90,000 paleontological, geological, and biological specimens representative of the deep history of life and landscapes in Oregon, the Pacific Northwest, and around the world. The Condon Collection is the primary repository for paleontological specimens collected from state lands within Oregon through agreements with Oregon State Parks, the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, and the City of Woodburn. The collection also cares for fossils from federal lands through agreements with the Bureau of Land Management and the National Parks Service. It has mounted public displays and state-wide educational outreach, and its staff has a long and distinguished record of publication and public lectures in paleontology. The collection, with the rest of the MNCH, was recently accredited by the American Alliance of Museums.



HB 2399 will:

- Establish the Condon Collection as a State Museum of Paleontology to safeguard state property and to keep it available to the public. State Museums of Paleontology have been designated by 24 other states for safeguarding specimens and collections representative of the state's history.
- Allow the Condon Collection to better attract orphaned collections of specimens of special scientific interest.
- Make the Condon Collection more competitive in donations of Oregon fossils of scientific importance to other museums, including the Smithsonian Institution, where they are not easily available for study and public appreciation here in Oregon.
- Aid in fundraising for the museum endowment, which is currently \$10 million.
- Help the Condon Collection continue to be a source for public lectures, education, displays, and publications, as well as field daily inquiries about fossils and rocks and government consultation.