



**OREGON CHAPTER  
OF THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**  
PO Box 2378  
Corvallis, OR 97339

February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**FROM: The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society**

**TO: Chair Brad Witt, House Committee on Natural Resources**

**SUBJECT: Support for House Bill 2072 authorizing State Department of Fish and Wildlife to operate wildlife inspection stations**

Chair Witt, Vice-Chair Gorsek, Vice-Chair Sprenger, and members of the Committee,

The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society (ORTWS) appreciates your consideration of House Bill 2072 and the opportunity to provide comments. ORTWS would like to express our support for HB 2072. The Wildlife Society is an international organization founded in 1937, representing nearly 10,000 professionals, including scientists, managers, educators, technicians, planners, consultants, conservation officers, students and others who manage, conserve, and study wildlife populations and habitat. In Oregon, the Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society (ORTWS) represents nearly 500 such professionals from many areas of public and private enterprise. Our mission is to promote wise conservation and management of wildlife resources in Oregon by serving and representing natural resource professionals. A central purpose of ORTWS is to support scientifically sound management policies.

We are in support of House Bill 2072 because it would allow the State Department of Fish and Wildlife to operate wildlife inspection “check” stations for the purposes of preventing the spread of infections and/or infestations harmful to wildlife or that may hinder wildlife management efforts.

With the current serious concerns surrounding the spread of decimating diseases such as chronic wasting disease or hoof rot, the establishment of check stations is a prudent and sensible step for quick detection of these, and similar diseases. Rapid detection of contagious diseases will help the State Department of Fish and Wildlife to detect and prevent the spread of these diseases which could seriously deplete Oregon’s wildlife populations and may potentially cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to control and eradicate. In contrast, the price of check stations and cooperative assistance from hunters for their time investment at the station is relatively minimal.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2072.

ORTWS Board of Directors

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