

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation  
Missoula, Montana

12 Feb 2019

Testimony Before the Oregon House Natural Resources Committee

Subject: HB 2294 – Natural Cervidae Scents must be from CWD-Free herds

Chairman Witt and Members of the Committee:

I am David Wiley a member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. I live at 430 NW Hartmann Ave, Sublimity, Oregon. Today I am speaking for The Elk Foundation.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is here before you to recommend HB 2294 be approved and passed out of committee. with a do-pass recommendation.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is pleased see the State of Oregon considering a measure to help protect its deer, elk and moose populations from disease known as Chronic Wasting Disease; a disease that is always fatal. You have heard from ODFW Staff the insidious nature of CWD. Oregon does not now have CWD in its deer and elk herds and it must keep it that way..

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation strongly supports science based preventive measures for CWD. HB 2294 is a pro-active preventive measure which we support.

I must point out that there is no live animal test for CWD and that the existing federal herd CWD-free certification program has proven unreliable; CWD has occurred in certified CWD-free herds. A policy prohibiting use of natural scent products might be more easily administered and enforceable, and understandable to the hunting community and the public.

Someday, science may find a way to manage CWD in free-ranging wildlife. To date, scientists have not found any methods shown to eliminate CWD after it has been established in the wild. Once the Gene is out of the bottle, well, its out and that is all there is to it.

“Prevention is the best medicine!”

Questions?

Thank you,

Dave Wiley *Agency Planning Team Leader*  
*RMEF-Oregon*

The MISSION of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat and our hunting heritage. Nationally RMEF has more than 234,000 members in more than 500 chapters. Within Oregon RMEF has ~16,000 members in 25 chapters statewide. In Oregon, since 1986, RMEF and its partners have protected and enhanced 803,678 acres of habitat and opened 133,569 acres for public access; a value of \$62,183,564 of which \$6,630,920 was provided by Oregon RMEF members.