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February 18, 2019

Co-Chairs Sen. Dembrow and Rep. Power
Co-Vice Chairs Sen. Bentz and Rep. Brock Smith
Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction

On behalf of the Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association (NSIA) thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on House Bill 2020. NSIA is a trade organization representing hundreds of businesses in the Pacific NW that create thousands of family wage jobs. In Oregon, sportfishing sustains more than 11,000 jobs in the service of over 600,000 license holders generating \$1.2 Billion in economic benefits. Sportfishing is not only a heritage for many of us; it is an economic force for conservation. Between license sales, and a federal excise tax on our industry, sportfishing (and hunting) fund more than one-half of ODFW's activities.

Many of you have heard from NSIA before when I was asked to serve on the work group for Agriculture, Forests, Fisheries, Rural Communities and Tribes. I want to express my appreciation for the specific language under purposes, Section 7 (1)(c), *"To promote adaptation and resilience by natural and working lands, fish and wildlife resources, communities and the economy in the face of climate change and ocean acidification;"*

We do understand that through a final version of this legislation, Oregon will be working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and join countless other states and nations in the effort to reduce and mitigate climate change. But for those of us who rely on healthy fish and wildlife resources, climate change is already here, and we are living with the ill effects of wildly variable weather events. In 2015, an early summer drought killed tens of thousands of salmon and steelhead, a legacy that just keeps on giving. We had the blob off the west coast that persisted into 2016 and a sour ocean that has only recently turned neutral. Communities suffer from excessive wildfires, crabbing closures and countless other environmentally driven problems from these extreme conditions. While these are the impacts the legislation is aimed at reducing in the future, Oregon's precious fish and wildlife need help now.

This year, many chinook, steelhead and sockeye returns are predicted to be at less than 50% of the 10-year average. One of the most important fisheries in the region for our industry, spring Chinook, is just setting a season that is one of the most constrained since 2000! The list goes on and on, but the point is, we believe Oregon can and must distinguish ourselves beyond reducing carbon levels. As we testified last year, funding for adaption and resiliency needs to be explicitly and consistently provided for. And HB 2020 is exactly the right vehicle and this year is exactly the right time to get started.

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We fear that absent dedicated, ongoing funding for adaptation and resiliency measures for natural resources, many of the fish and wildlife resources of today will be memories I tell my grandchildren about. Our community has three main areas for amendments:

- 1) Planning. NSIA supports language that requires coordinated planning among natural resource agencies to help understand the effects of climate change and prioritize actions in response.
- 2) Offsets. We support the use of offsets to both ease the cost of compliance with emissions reductions and, importantly, to provide resources to invest in forest management that improves the resilience of our natural systems. If such protections and longer rotations are directed at riparian areas, there can be important benefits for our fisheries, by providing more shade, reducing risk from sediments entering the waterways, and providing large wood to streams.
- 3) Dedicated Auction Revenues. Again, we support the dedication of a fixed percentage of auction revenues toward priority projects and programs that will strengthen the resilience of fish and wildlife to the effects of climate change. A partial listing of needed habitat actions is included below.

We in the fishing and conservation community look forward to working with you on amendments to address this vital component of the legislation. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Liz Hamilton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Liz Hamilton, Executive Director
Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association

What can be done?

There are several things that could be done to buffer native species against the effects of climate change (*adaptation strategies*):

Coastal/ocean

- identify and protect critical fish and wildlife intertidal and wetland habitats on open coast and estuaries
- protect and restore eelgrass beds critical to juvenile crab and salmon to mitigate OA
- protect and restore tidal marshes as carbon sinks, flood storage capacity and juvenile salmon habitat
- protect ocean areas that may add resilience to ecosystem (OA refugia, areas of high diversity, etc.)
- Tide gate replacements to ensure coastal juvenile coho wintering habitat
 - Identify and plan for ways to maintain beach access, boat ramps, hunter access

Inland

Habitat:

- Protect cold water sources (land purchases or easements) critical for fish and wildlife populations.
- Invest in winter water storage solutions to reduce intense high flow events that scour out all salmon redds AND can help in supplying cold water and flow during warmer low flow months.
- Invest in water conservation technologies (provide real water savings)
- Obtain more instream water rights
- Invest in riparian planting to shade streams

Species management

- Increase effort in invasive species mgmt. (prevention, control, eradication)

Infrastructure

- Install climate resilient fish passage (culverts/low head dams etc)
- Screen diversions
- Secure hatchery water supply
- Develop hatchery recirculating technology to reduce surface water reliance

Recreation

- Identify critical recreation access that needs to be modified.