



Volunteer

23 April 2019

Testimony Before the Oregon Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

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

Chairman Dembrow 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 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's deer, elk and moose herds do not now have CWD and with your help that situation can be continued.

One of the vectors by which CWD can be transmitted to deer and elk is using commercially available urine-based deer and elk scents by hunters and others interested in attracting the animals. This bill addresses that vector by requiring such scents to be CWD-free.

I must point out that there is no live animal test for CWD and that the existing federal herd CWD certification program has proven unreliable; CWD has occurred in certified CWD free herds. And there is no test that can be used to assure that a urine scent is CWD-free.

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

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, it's out and that is all there is to it. Once in the herds the expense of addressing the disease and the social impacts will be in the extreme.

Ben Franklin really said it, "an ounce of **prevention** is worth a pound of cure".

Thank you,

Dave Wiley



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About the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

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.