

April 29, 2019

Senator Michael Dembrow (Chair) and Senator Alan Olsen (Vice Chair)
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, Oregon State Legislature

Statement of support for HB 2250A: Requiring certain state agencies to regularly assess proposed and final changes to federal environment laws to determine whether changes are significantly less protective of public health, environment or natural resources than standards and requirements contained in those federal environmental laws, as in effect on January 19, 2017.

Dear Senators,

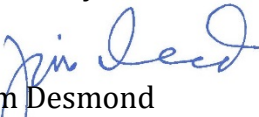
I write on behalf of The Nature Conservancy to reinforce our support for HB 2250A. We applaud Governor Kate Brown's leadership in defending our nation's bedrock environmental principles and laws.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a global, science-based and non-partisan conservation organization operating in all 50 states in the United States and in over 70 countries. Our mission is to protect the lands and waters on which all life depends. The organization has over 70,000 supporters statewide with members in every county in Oregon. Our staff, based in communities across the state, work collaboratively with tribes, government agencies, elected officials, landowners, businesses, and stakeholders to develop solutions to the challenges facing people and nature.

Oregon is celebrated for our incredible biodiversity as well for the critical steps taken to ensure the vitality of our forests, freshwater, desert, grasslands and ocean. Pioneering protections such as landmark land-use planning laws, coupled with strategic investments made by Oregon's natural resources agencies over the years, continue to serve Oregon and our communities well. HB 2250A ensures this unwavering commitment to nature and people is strengthened in the face of current challenges.

As a matter of national policy concern, The Nature Conservancy is already strategically engaged to advance our agenda and defend core environmental principles, values, and policies ranging from public lands protections to advocating for regulatory certainty. We urge your favorable consideration of HB 2250A and support to state agencies tasked with the responsibility of conducting assessments as envisioned in this legislation.

Sincerely,


Jim Desmond
State Director

Cc: The Honorable Kate Brown, Governor of Oregon