

Thanks for providing me with the opportunity to testify regarding HB3187. I highly encourage the passage of this legislation creating the Oregon Wildlife Council. I was one of the Founders of the Colorado Wildlife Council and involved in helping facilitate the legislation that created the Michigan Wildlife Council. Both of these councils are models for the Oregon Wildlife Council. I was the first Chairman of the Colorado Wildlife Council and spent over ten years helping develop the rationale, legislation and programs that led to the current Council's success. The most important reason to pass this legislation is to help ensure that healthy wildlife continues to thrive in Oregon. The vast majority of the general public, those that do not engage in hunting or angling have very little knowledge, understanding or interest in the benefits that scientific wildlife management provides to wildlife. Additionally they know very little about how the revenue from the sales of hunting and fishing licenses preserves Oregon's wild animal populations for all Oregonians to enjoy. The preservation of the agency that manages wildlife in Oregon is in fact dependent upon the continuation of the legal pursuits of hunting and fishing. The wildlife in Oregon is dependent upon successful management of wildlife and human populations. If no value is placed upon wildlife in the eye of the public that wildlife will cease to exist. Oregonians that do not engage in hunting and angling need to understand and appreciate and thereby continue to support scientific wildlife management and hunting and fishing if they appreciate and love wildlife. The Oregon Wildlife Council is the mechanism to ensure that the necessary knowledge and understanding about the relationship between hunting, fishing and scientific wildlife management is communicated to those who are not directly involved. Why, because those individuals may have a say in the future of these consumptive recreational sports and they need to understand why the American model of hunting and fishing funding wildlife management is the best, and most successful model of wildlife management in the world. The Oregon Wildlife Council is charged with helping provide the public with factual important messages and educational information about wildlife and scientific wildlife management so that future generations will continue to enjoy Oregon's rich and abundant wildlife resources. Thank you for the opportunity to share my experiences and thoughts.