



**The House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources: HB 2386
Chair Brad Witt, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson and Hudson, and Members of the Committee**

Statement of Support from The Conservation Angler and Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center

HB 2386 deserves support is because Oregon decision-making is adrift without Independent Review

This is an important bill because it creates an open and transparent process that allows the science and economics presented to be clearly vetted and shared.

Oregon has a strong history of embracing independent scientific review helping the state address complex issues – and this process served Oregon well as the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds demonstrates for stabilizing wild coho salmon populations on the Oregon coast. Oregon State University has been the home for prior independent efforts to synthesize and deliver ecological and conservation scientific rationales for policy makers.

The looming challenges of climate change requires that decisions be made on sound science that will help shape the laws you make so they have long term benefits for all Oregonians.

Topic Areas this Legislation could assist the Legislature with:

- ✦ Forest and rangeland resiliency in the face of increasing Wildfires
- ✦ Monitoring for and battling invasive species
- ✦ Wild Fish Management and Recovery
- ✦ Environmental health related to safe drinking water, good air quality, and food production

The Legislature is charged with crafting policy to solve problems, allocate state resources fairly and keep an eye on the future resiliency and sustainability of citizens and our critical resources such as water, wildlife, soils and a huge variety of landscape ecosystems we all know and love.

Science is not a product but a process. There would not be new research but a thorough survey the best available science by credible panels of experts.

The scientific “answer” does not always provide a clear policy path forward. Members of the Legislature will retain their responsibility to exercise sound judgement and will still have to make the hard policy decisions – but quite possibly with greater confidence in the credibility of the scientific underpinnings.

The Legislature hears from multiple parties speaking for and against policy bills with important scientific underpinnings – the advocates may be experts themselves, perhaps they can refer to credible scientific evidence or they may have a lifetime of personal experience. While not possible in every case, creating the ISR so that key scientific questions are reviewed and considered will bring some clarity to many complex issues. Why not tap into a set of credentialed experts working collaboratively to examine the existing literature and provide you with helpful guidance?

Please vote Aye on HB 2386.

Testimony provided to you is endorsed by:

Michael Dotson, Executive Director, Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center, Ashland, Oregon
Suzanne Fouty, PhD (retired scientist), Baker City, OR
Ron Larson, PhD (retired scientist), Klamath Falls, OR
David Moskowitz, Executive Director, The Conservation Angler, Portland, OR