

David S. Wall  
P.O. Box 756 Newberg, Oregon 97132; [408-287-6838]

March 26, 2021

To: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources; others

Re: **I OPPOSE [HB 3187]...Welfare program for "Visit Oregon's Wildlife tourism industry?"**

**[HB 3187]: exerts states, "SECTION 1. (1) The Oregon Wildlife Council is established within the State Department of Fish and Wildlife."**

"At the discretion of the council, a member may be reimbursed from funds available to the council for actual and necessary travel and other expenses incurred in performing the member's official duties, subject to the limits described in ORS 292.495. (10) **The council shall: (a) Develop and implement, with a third-party marketing or advertising agency, a comprehensive media-based public information program to promote the essential roles of hunting and fishing in wildlife conservation and to educate the public about hunting and fishing.** The program must inform the public that hunting and fishing are: (A) Necessary for the conservation, preservation and management of this state's natural resources. (B) A valued and integral part of the cultural heritage of this state, which should forever be preserved. (C) An important part of this state's economy."

"SECTION 3. ORS 496.303 is amended to read: 496.303. **(1) The Fish and Wildlife Account is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund.** All moneys in the account are continuously appropriated to the State Fish and Wildlife Commission. **The Fish and Wildlife Account shall consist of the moneys in its various subaccounts and any moneys transferred to the account by the Legislative Assembly.** Unless otherwise specified by law, interest earnings on moneys in the account shall be paid into the State Treasury and credited to the State Wildlife Fund."

"(14)(a) The Oregon Wildlife Council Subaccount is established in the Fish and Wildlife Account. (b) **The subaccount consists of moneys deposited into the subaccount from any source.** Interest earned on moneys in the subaccount must be credited to the subaccount. (c) Moneys in the subaccount may be expended for activities described in section 1 of this 2021 Act. **Not more than five percent of the moneys deposited into the subaccount in one year may be expended for administrative costs.**"

**[HB 3187]** is the creation of an additional funding source for "Visit Oregon" and or additional contracted vendors of tourist related activities."Visit Oregon" has already wreaked havoc with all jurisdictions pertaining to "Wine Tours" and other "Agritourism" activities which materially interferes with farm operations. The corresponding unabated squeezing of tourist's dollars from their pocketbooks via the Transient Lodging Taxes is also noted.

\*\*\*The Wildlife Commission is established in the **Department of Fish and Wildlife**. The continuous financial appropriations and performance tracking of the use of the funds in multiple subaccounts will be burdensome to State Accountants. **Review; [Page 2 at (24-45)] and [Page 3 at (1-45)] and [Page 4 at (1-28)].**

\*\*\*\*The "Audits Division" should be activated to report on the necessity for financial and performance audits of the 'Wildlife Commission' finances with special emphasis on the numerous "subaccounts."

Under "No" circumstances should **[HB 3187]** go forward.

*Respectfully submitted,*

/s/ David S. Wall