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COMMISSIONER, TODD NASH

February 25, 2021

To: The Honorable Jeff Golden, Chair
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

RE: Senate Bill 630

The Elk Damage tag has been successful in helping to mitigate crop and rangeland degradation on private properties. SB 630 is intended to support the original bill ORS 496.146.

With regards to adjacent landowners, we don't expect this bill to allow for take of elk on property that isn't being damaged or where hunters from an adjoining neighbor aren't welcome. These two issues were not well defined in the text of SB 630, but were thoughtfully pointed out by the letter supplied by ODFW Deputy Director Hurn. If we can clean up this language, and address taking elk on more than one property by utilizing the same hunters for the benefit of elk damage issue, then we have simply enhanced the original bill.

This is one more tool that can be added to an ever growing issue across this state. This multiple landowner approach was identified by a stakeholder work group organized by ODFW in 2016 and 2017. ODFW has made some substantive changes to the way elk damage can be managed and we appreciate those efforts, this small change in SB 630 would be very helpful as well/

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