

March 7, 2023

As Manager of a Vector Control District, I am writing you in support of HB 3247. Our district is tasked with the responsibility of protecting its residents from the possible transmission of arbovirus diseases such as West Nile virus, Western Equine Encephalitis and St. Louis Encephalitis through the bite of pathogenic mosquitoes.

Our district conducts a rather robust adult mosquito surveillance program to monitor and track our mosquito-borne disease titers. After collection and identification, all our pathogenic mosquitoes are PCR tested through the Oregon State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. PCR testing will detect 100% of any virus titers in our mosquito pools.

The Oregon State University Diagnostic Laboratory in cooperation with the Oregon Health Authority have been vital to the success of our agency preventing the spread of mosquito-borne disease. The test results from the OSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory serves as an early detecting system, so that mosquito and vector control districts can be more proactive and not reactive to arbovirus and zoonotic disease activity.

It has come to my attention that the House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resource and Water Committee is going to be considering HB 3247. This legislation would increase state support for the Oregon State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory to bolster the ongoing efforts to monitor for, prevent and respond to zoonotic disease in Oregon, and begin the process of building a new laboratory to meet future needs.

I am in full support of HB 3247.