



Jackson County Vector Control District

555 Mosquito Lane, Central Point, Oregon 97502

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March 7, 2023

To Whom It Concerns,

As Manager of Jackson County Vector Control District, I am writing to you in support of HB 3247. Our District is tasked with protecting Jackson County residents from the transmission of diseases such as West Nile virus, Western Equine Encephalitis, and St. Louis Encephalitis that are spread through the bite of infected mosquitoes.

Our District conducts intensive mosquito trapping and surveillance to monitor mosquito populations throughout Jackson County. After mosquitoes are collected and identified, they are tested for diseases using Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) at the Oregon State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. This laboratory, in cooperation with the Oregon Health Authority, are vital to the success of vector control Districts and similar agencies in preventing the spread of mosquito-borne diseases. The test results that the OSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory provides serve as an early detection system; they indicate the presence of a mosquito-borne disease and allow mosquito control professionals to make informed decisions regarding control measures in the interest of public health.

It has come to my attention that the House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resource and Water Committee is considering HB 3247. This legislation would increase state support for the Oregon State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and provide funding that would allow for much needed enhancements to the facility. These enhancements would serve to bolster ongoing efforts to monitor, prevent, and respond to mosquito-borne diseases in Oregon.

I am in full support of HB 3247

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G Taylor".

Geoff Taylor, District Manager