



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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January 22, 2025

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
RE: HB 2167

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald, and Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) is Oregon's largest state-centric hunter conservation organization, representing 12,000 sportsmen and women throughout 26 chapters in the state. Our mission statement is 'to protect Oregon's wildlife, habitat, and hunting heritage' and we strongly support science-based wildlife and habitat management.

OHA supports HB 2167 and the investment of increased funding for both the Carlson College of Veterinary Medicine and the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (OVDL) at Oregon State University.

The OVDL facility is fully accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnostics and provides an immense value to Oregonians. The breadth of testing the OVDL processes benefits both Oregonians and our wildlife and environment.

CWD, a 100% fatal prion disease specific to deer, elk, and moose, presents a serious threat to Oregon's wildlife populations with recent cases found in Idaho, California, and Washington. Oregon is investing in a proactive response to the threat of CWD by establishing in-state testing facilities at the OVDL. In 2024, the Legislature appropriated \$1.9 million to the OVDL for specific work on CWD and zoonotic diseases. This amount funded the initial phases of the in-state testing process; the additional \$3.5 million request in HB 2167 would continue this important work.

In addition to CWD, there are many disease issues facing Oregon's wildlife populations, from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in our birds to Mycoplasma Ovipneumonia in our wild goat and sheep populations. We strongly urge the expanded funding of the OVDL as an investment in Oregon's wildlife health.

OHA supports HB 2167 and the investment in wildlife health through funding the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

Thank you for your time,
Amy Patrick
Policy Director