



**ROCKY MOUNTAIN
ELK FOUNDATION**

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 Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is a national non-profit hunting conservation organization with a mission to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat and our hunting heritage. Since our founding in 1984 we have conserved or enhanced over 9.1 million acres in the US, and over 891,000 acres in Oregon. Our more than 10,000 members raise funds through 22 state chapters.

RMEF has been engaged in CWD research and management at the state and federal level and were sponsors of the CWD Research and Management act in Congress, as well as founding members of the CWD Alliance. **RMEF supports HB 2167** and the increased investment in the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (OVDL) at Oregon State University.

CWD is a fatal prion disease in deer, elk, and moose. Facilitating increased and rapid testing to serve both hunters and the biologists fighting this disease will be a service to Oregon. Other wildlife disease are also threatening game and non-game species alike, and increasing the state's ability to address these threats is to the economic and social benefit of the state.

Last session as a good first investment and we support expanded funding of the OVDL this year. RMEF supports HB 2167.

Respectfully,

Ryan Bronson
Director of Government Affairs