



ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

January 29, 2025

Senate Natural Resources and Wildfire Committee

Re: SB 812- Landowner Preference Program

Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash and Members of the Committee,

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) 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 United States and 891,000 acres in Oregon. Our more than 10,000 members raise funds through 22 state chapters.

RMEF supports SB 812, which would simply remove the sunset on the Landowner Preference program. The purpose of the LOP program is to provide a recreational benefit to landowners that are providing habitat for wildlife and as a wildlife population management tool. The program provides an opportunity for registered landowners, their immediate family members, and/or non-family members to receive controlled hunt tags to hunt on the landowner's property.

The program is a valuable tool for landowners to alleviate wildlife damage. The department may approve an unused LOP tag to be "split" and used to take up to two antlerless animals before, during or after the season to alleviate damage that is presently occurring. The LOP program balances landowner and hunter interests by recognizing the habitat value private land provides, creating an incentive for landowners to enhance wildlife values on their property, and limiting potential negative impacts to hunter opportunities.

RMEF believes the sunset is no longer needed. After more than 30 years of negotiation and frequent modifications, the current structure of the program has worked for a decade. We urge your support for SB 812. Thank you.

Ryan Bronson
Director of Government Affairs