FROM: The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society

TO: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

SUBJECT: HB 2984 (OCRF Water) - SUPPORT

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

The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society (ORTWS) appreciates your consideration of HB 2984 and the opportunity to provide comments.

ORTWS would like to express our strong support for HB 2984.

ORTWS represents nearly 600 wildlife professionals from many areas of public and private enterprises composed of students, scientists, educators, technicians, consultants, biologists, and land managers. These professionals in our organization dedicate their lives to managing, conserving, and studying wildlife populations and their habitats throughout Oregon. Our mission is to inspire, empower, and enable Oregon's wildlife professionals and students to promote science-based wildlife conservation and management through the participation and leadership of an open and inclusive community of members.

We are in support of HB 2984 because it aligns with implementing our mission. The Oregon Conservation and Recovery Fund (OCRF) has been a critical component of successful wildlife and natural resource conservation. The proposed strengthening of OCRF will further help advance conservation practices to benefit Oregon's fish, wildlife, and public.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Regards,

ORTWS Board of Directors