

OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water Re: HB 2170 Support

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

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

OHA supports HB 2170 and the increased efforts to prevent invasive species impacts in Oregon. The ability for intergovernmental agreements between state agencies and local governments or service districts increases responsiveness in preventing invasive species from entering Oregon.

The potential impacts of invasive species such as quagga and zebra muscles pose an incredible risk to Oregon's waterways. In addition to the impacts to our naturally occurring waterways, Oregon's water infrastructure, such as dams, irrigation systems, municipal water systems, and even fish passage structures would be severely damaged by any potential invasive species infestation. As a result of such damage, the financial impact to the state would exceed most current general fund expenditures to natural resource agencies and would require ongoing appropriations.

OHA encourages the committee to support HB 2170.

Thank you, Amy Patrick OHA Policy Director