



**OREGON CHAPTER OF
THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**
PO Box 2378
Corvallis, OR 97339

FROM: The Oregon Chapter of The Wildlife Society

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

SUBJECT: HB 2982 (AIS Prevention Fund) - 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 2982 and the opportunity to provide comments. ORTWS would like to express our strong support of this bill.

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 2982 because it aligns with our mission and a goal to promote stewardship of wildlife and their habitats through the use of sound ecological information. As scientists and stewards of Oregon's wildlife and natural resources, ORTWS is well-aware of the catastrophic impact of invasive species on our environment. HB 2982 is essential to continuing to advance the control and eradication of aquatic invasive species in Oregon.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Regards,

ORTWS Board of Directors