



CONSOLIDATED OREGON INDIVISIBLE NETWORK

February 25, 2025

Subject: Please vote yes on HB 2342

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice Chair McDonald, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water,

We are writing on behalf of the Consolidated Oregon Indivisible Network (COIN) to urge you to support HB 2342. COIN is made up of Indivisible groups across Oregon and has its own Climate Energy Environment (CEE) Team. The CEE Team collaborates with organizations, agencies, and groups across the Pacific Northwest to advocate, in part, for laws and programs that promote and protect our natural world.

Oregon's famed wildlife and their habitats are important to Oregonians and our local economies, and they have been declining in recent decades. Hunters rely on sustainable management of game animals and their habitats. Rural communities count on the influx of hunters and their traveling companions for business-saving income during the late fall and winter seasons, when the fair-weather travelers decline in numbers.

Programs to manage wildlife species and habitat have been severely underfunded. Costs of personnel, infrastructure requirements, field activities and operations continue to increase. It's important to non-hunters to have these costs covered as well, because providing more funding for the game species and their habitats also provides overlapping benefits to non-hunted species with similar habitat requirements. As you are aware, many of these species are declining at even faster rates than most game species.

Six years ago, ODFW was approved to incrementally increase license, tag, and permit fee amounts over a 6-year period. With rising costs over that time, inflation has eaten away at what was believed to be a balance of expenditures and income. HB 2342 continues those incremental increases for another 6 year period, which is a conservative level of increase given current inflation levels.

COIN and its members urge you to provide this stable and ongoing source of funding for these critical wildlife recovery and habitat restoration programs and vote yes on HB 2342.

Monica Tomosy
Laura Allen
On behalf of COIN and the COIN CEE Team