OREGON VETERINARY
medical association

March 3, 2025

Support for House Bill 3314 – Harmful Algal Bloom Mitigation

Dear Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald and Other Committee Members:

On behalf of the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA), I am writing to express our support for House Bill 3314, which appropriates funding to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for distribution to Oregon State University (OSU) to study and mitigate harmful algal blooms in the Ross Island lagoon.

As a veterinary organization dedicated to the health and well-being of animals and the communities they live in, we recognize the serious threats posed by harmful algal blooms (HABs) to both human and animal health across Oregon. Toxic algae outbreaks in rivers, lakes, and reservoirs can produce dangerous toxins that affect drinking water supplies, recreational areas, livestock, pets, and wildlife. These toxins have been linked to neurological damage, liver disease, and even fatalities in animals that come into contact with contaminated water sources.

The funding provided by HB 3314 will support critical research, monitoring, and mitigation efforts led by OSU and the Human Access Project to better understand these toxic blooms and develop effective strategies to reduce their impact. Specifically, investments in fish surveys, U.S. Geological Survey monitoring, engineering solutions, and project management will provide essential data and infrastructure to help safeguard Oregon's water resources and protect public and animal health.

The OVMA strongly supports efforts to study and mitigate HABs to ensure the safety of Oregon's citizens, their pets, and the state's diverse wildlife populations. We urge you and your colleagues to pass HB 3314 and allocate the necessary resources to advance this important initiative.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can provide additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,

Charles

Charles Hurty, DVM / President
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