



Co Chairs Sen Frederick, Rep Levy, and Members of the of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources

My name is Joe Liebezeit. I'm the Statewide Conservation Director for the Bird Alliance of Oregon. Our mission is to "Inspire all people to love and protect birds, wildlife, and the natural environment upon which life depends." At 122 years old, we are the longest serving conservation organization in Oregon. On behalf of our over 12,000 members, we are writing today to ask you to please support passage of HB 5062 - appropriation of the General Fund to the State Parks and Recreation Department Oregon.

Bird Alliance of Oregon collaborates very closely with OPRD on several issues including management of the Endangered Western Snowy Plover on the north coast and developing criteria regarding recreational drone usage in state parks and OPRD managed lands. We fully understand the valuable role OPRD has in our state in balancing protection of some of our most iconic and ecologically important natural areas with responsible recreation.

Passing HB 5062 in the full amount is critical for OPRD to be able to effectively manage its over 200 parks throughout the state. We also want to express concern about potential budgetary shortfalls we can see possibly impacting the OPRD in the coming years. We urge for permanent solutions to these potential budgetary shortfalls to be examined by the agency and legislature proactively.

Sincerely, Joe Liebezeit

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joe Liebezeit", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Statewide Conservation Director
Bird Alliance of Oregon