

Submitter: Rachel Freed

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3350

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 3350, which appropriates funds from the General Fund to the State Forestry Department for deposit in the Rangeland Protection Association Fund. This legislation is a critical investment in the preservation and management of Oregon's rangelands, which are vital for our economy, environment, and communities.

Rangelands play an essential role in supporting agriculture, wildlife habitat, and ecosystem health. By providing financial resources to the Rangeland Protection Association Fund, we are ensuring that landowners and managers have the support they need to implement effective conservation practices and protect these valuable resources. This funding will facilitate initiatives that promote sustainable land management, enhance forage quality, and conserve biodiversity, ultimately benefiting both current and future generations.

Additionally, the Rangeland Protection Association Fund is instrumental in addressing the challenges posed by invasive species, wildfires, and climate change. With the appropriate resources, land managers can take proactive measures to mitigate these threats, ensuring the resilience of our rangelands and the livelihoods they support. Investing in the protection and sustainability of these lands is not only an ecological imperative but also a crucial economic strategy for our rural communities.

Furthermore, this funding will foster collaboration among landowners, conservation groups, and state agencies. By supporting cooperative efforts and sharing best practices, we can create a more unified approach to rangeland management that benefits all stakeholders involved.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support HB 3350 and urge you to advocate for its passage. Appropriating funds to the Rangeland Protection Association Fund is a vital step towards safeguarding Oregon's rangelands and promoting sustainable practices that enhance our agricultural economy and protect our natural resources. Thank you for your attention to this important initiative.