

April 8, 2025

Dear Senator,

Hope you are doing well.

I support the funding for the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory under SB 5525.

The Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (OVDL) is doing a great job informing the Oregon department of Fish and Wildlife, State agencies and the public at large about the emergence of zoonotic diseases that have proven in recent years to be more detrimental to humans.

More recently, the OVDL provided the state with key information to stop the spread of COVID-19, they acquired the necessary permits to be granted permission to test human swabs for the presence or absence of COVID-19 in our population. The OVDL became one of the few animal diagnostic labs in the United States to be given certification to perform the COVID-19 test. More specifically they performed more than 300,000 tests in Oregon.

As per article published in Capital Press, <https://capitalpress.com/2025/02/13/oregons-top-vet-lab-looks-to-protect-against-new-threats/> , it states that the OVDL is also currently engaged in trying to prevent the spread of High Pathogenic Avian Influenza. This virus is spread by wild birds and so far it has had 67 human cases and one death, when this article was published in February 13th, 2025.

The OVDL under the direction of Dr Kurt Williams, is also looking to increase its testing capabilities at the OVDL by bringing Chronic Wasting Dease Testing for hunters in Oregon. Currently all the testing for this disease is being done out of state. CWD is spread Cervid species such as deer and elk. In the article by OPB, <https://www.opb.org/article/2023/09/22/chronic-wasting-disease-oregon/> , the article goes on to say that this prion disease has no cure, no treatment and no vaccine. Dr Colin Gillin, the State Wildlife Veterinarian, states that this disease has been detected in Idaho and the hope is that by bringing this testing capability to Oregon, they can try to mitigate the spread of the disease.

In my opinion the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory provides a unique opportunity to work with stake holders and the public to minimize the spread of zoonotic diseases in the state of Oregon, so I ask you again to support SB 5525.

Sincerely

Nelson Osorio
Benton County Oregon