



April 17, 2025

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RE: Testimony on HB 2163 (Neutral)

To Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities (OCDD) works to create change so that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) can live full lives as valued members of their communities. Every person deserves full access to community life. However, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities do not have the same access to the opportunities afforded under Oregon's wildlife laws related to fishing and shellfish harvesting. House Bill 2163 aims to resolve that issue.

Individuals with certain physical disabilities such as mobility impairments, breathing difficulties, cardiac conditions, vision issues, or other physical impairments that prevent them from holding a fishing rod or shellfish equipment are allowed accommodations and assistance from others when participating in angling and shellfish harvesting activities. However, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) are not included in those provisions. While some individuals with IDD are more likely to have several of the physical impairments listed above, many do not. As a result, those individuals are not afforded the same opportunity to fish or collect shellfish. There are other attributes of IDD beyond physical limitations which may prevent an individual from holding or operating angling or shellfish harvesting equipment.

HB 2163 remedies those inequities in Oregon's fish and wildlife laws. It will allow persons who obtain verification from a medical professional that they are a person with an intellectual and developmental disability and that the symptoms of their disability prevent them from using things like rods, reels, clam guns, shovels and other equipment used for fishing and shellfish harvesting to be considered a person with a disability under wildlife laws. Those provisions will have a positive impact in terms of providing those with IDD greater access to fishing opportunities afforded to other Oregonians.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2163.