



Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share CCA Oregon's support for HB 2343, as amended by the House, which would renew the Columbia Basin Endorsement for an additional 6 years.

CCA Oregon has been at the forefront of the effort to remove nontreaty gill nets from the mainstem Columbia River where they jeopardize ESA listed salmon and steelhead stocks. The Columbia River Endorsement is part of the agreed upon package to move the nontreaty gillnet fleet into side channel Safe Areas.

In 2021, we worked with Senator Golden and the legislature to extend the endorsement for an additional four years and make important changes to the authorizing law that increased transparency on how the funds are spent and added language that would automatically sunset the endorsement if ODFW further eroded the reforms by increasing mainstem gillnetting. It is critical that these changes remain in law.

Nobody wants to pay more and sport anglers have made good on their part of the agreement. Funds generated by the Endorsement have successfully established a commercial fishery in off-channel areas that is exceeding goals.

BUT, nontreaty gill nets are still used in the Columbia's main stem and non-concurrent regulations are resulting in lost angling opportunities. Sport anglers are losing patience, and I suspect this will be the last time CCA Oregon will offer its support for continuation of the Columbia River Endorsement without realizing the full benefits of the Columbia River Reforms.

We would like to work with ODFW and the Legislature to ensure the Reforms remain on track with their original intent. The amendment adopted in the House to reduce the extension to six years increases confidence we will see additional progress on addressing the policy conflicts that have restricted the recreational fishery and undermined the intent of Washington's \$14.4 million gillnet buyback.

Thank you for your service to the citizens of Oregon and the opportunity to share CCA Oregon's perspective on HB 2343.

Respectfully,
Dave Schamp, Chairman