



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water
Re: SB 74 Support

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens,, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) is Oregon's largest state-centric hunter conservation organization, representing over 12,000 sportsmen and women throughout 26 chapters in the state. Our mission is 'to protect Oregon's wildlife, habitat, and hunting heritage' and we strongly support science-based wildlife and habitat management.

OHA supports SB 74 with the -6 amendment. The -6 further clarifies the simplified process of aligning State ownership of 'title-navigable' rivers as needed due to changes in river boundaries either by accretion or avulsion. The ability for landowners to choose the simplified process of deed conveyance with the State if in agreement with the State's assessment allows for a less burdensome process. However, maintaining the current transactional process for any landowner who may not agree with the State's assessment ensures landowner's ability to contest the assessment.

Affirming the State ownership of the submerged lands of navigable waterways as those waterway boundaries shift and change ensures continued public access for recreation and other public uses.

Preserving public access to state-owned waterways and lands is an important priority for the sportsmen and women of Oregon. Equally important is the assurance of an equitable and understandable process for effected landowners. OHA supports SB 74 with the -6 amendment as the balance between these two important components.

Thank you for your time,
Amy Patrick
Policy Director