

January 26, 2023

Oregon House of Representatives  
900 Court St., NE  
Salem, OR 97301

RE: House Bill 2532- Chronic Wasting Disease Funding

To the Honorable Members of the Oregon House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water:

On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of sportsmen and women in Oregon, whose interests our organizations represent, we write to request that the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water pass House Bill 2532 (HB 2532), which would appropriate money to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon State University for purposes related to chronic wasting disease.

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a progressive, fatal, degenerative neurological disease occurring in deer, elk and other ungulates. CWD is a slow and progressive disease. Because the disease has a long incubation period, deer and elk infected with CWD may not present any visible signs of the disease for up to two years after they become infected. As the disease progresses, ungulates with CWD show changes in behavior and appearance. These clinical signs may include progressive weight loss, stumbling, tremors, lack of coordination, blank facial expressions, excessive salivation and drooling, loss of appetite, excessive thirst and urination, listlessness, abnormal head posture, and drooping ears. There is no known treatment or vaccine for CWD.

Oregon sportsmen and women are concerned about the potential for CWD to spread into Oregon, impacting healthy ungulate populations and habitat. The deleterious effects that CWD would have on Oregon's ungulate populations cannot be overstated.

The threats posed by CWD to wildlife and conservation are serious and sizeable enough that specific resources are needed to ensure a robust, coordinated response. Currently, Oregon sends all CWD samples collected by hunters to Colorado State University for testing. The turnaround time for tests is 3-4 weeks, on average. With CWD on Oregon's border, it is imperative to immediately increase personnel to assist in sample collection, process sample results, and establish in-state testing. Oregon State University has agreed to incorporate CWD testing into the Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Lab to facilitate in-state testing. Oregon's sportsmen and women strongly support the efforts of ODFW and OSU to establish in-state testing facilities, increase research capacity, and increase staffing specific to sample collection and processing.

The funds allocated from General Fund under HB 2532 can also be used to help secure matching federal funds that are available for CWD research-- the Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Research and Management Act was recently included in the Omnibus Budget Bill and appropriates \$19.5 million for CWD efforts in 2023.

On behalf of Oregon's sportsmen and women, we strongly urge your support for HB 2532.  
Thank you for your attention to this pressing need.

Sincerely,

Ken Hand  
Advocates for Sustainable Animal Populations

Keely Hopkins  
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

Matt Little  
Ducks Unlimited

Jason Wisniewski  
Fur Takers of America, Inc.

Amy Patrick  
Oregon Hunter's Association

Karl J. Findling  
Oregon Pack Works

Jim Soares  
Oregon Trappers Association

Kevin Martin  
Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation

Torin Miller  
National Deer Association

Bill Richardson  
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Chris Tymeson  
Safari Club International

Michael O'Casey  
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership