



Testimony on Co-Chair Rebalance Plan for Agency Reductions

Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Natural Resources

July 21, 2020

Co-Chairs Representative Reardon and Senator Taylor, and Members of the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means on Natural Resources:

Humane Voters Oregon is an Oregon-only nonprofit that advocates for humane treatment of animals. Please consider our comments as follows to the Co-Chair Rebalance Plan Reductions.

First, we hope you will find a way to **preserve funding for the anti-poaching programs** in the Department of Fish and Wildlife (items 236 and 238). For several years now, the Legislature has recognized that poaching is a serious problem in Oregon. In response, the Legislature has passed a series of bills to increase penalties for poaching and, in 2019, to increase funding for enforcement of laws against poaching. These changes were supported by a broad range of stakeholders. Wildlife management in Oregon is controversial, but hunting groups, conservation groups and animal-welfare groups generally all agree that laws to protect the state's precious wildlife resources from poaching should be vigorously enforced. Moreover, funding to enforce our wildlife laws already is being reduced in the Fish and Wildlife Division of the Oregon State Police. Thus, even in these difficult times, the anti-poaching programs in the Department of Fish and Wildlife should remain a high priority.

Second, we **support elimination of the additional "predator control" funding** given to the departments of Agriculture and Fish and Wildlife (items 205 and 246). This funding would be used primarily to kill wildlife deemed to interfere with agriculture and other business. These activities are often cruel, highly controversial and, as we believe the science increasingly shows, largely ineffective. Thus, they are not a wise use of limited government resources.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brian Posewitz

Brian Posewitz
Director