

**Exhibit B**

**Public Correspondence received as of  
March 2, 2017**



## **OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION**

**Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage**

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Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE  
Salem, Oregon 97302  
RE: Oregon's Mule Deer LOP Program  
March 2, 2017

Dear Chair Finley and Members of the ODFW Commission:

Mule deer populations in Oregon are on a continual decline. To make matters worse, we are just getting over one of the harshest winters Oregon has experienced in many years. In light of these factors, now is not the time to be making liberal changes to the Landowner Preference (LOP) program as it relates to an increase in available buck deer tags.

Oregon Hunters Association represents a wide diversity of hunter interests from across the State. The common expectation is that wildlife be managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODF&W) using sound science and relying much less on social expectations.

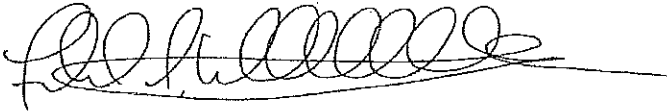
Oregon has the most liberal LOP program in the United States. When it was first developed in 1982, two tags were issued to each qualified landowner in appreciation for efforts in wildlife management. In the years to follow, the program was significantly expanded primarily in response to damage. Now, up to 14 tags can be received by landowners. In 2013, a workgroup, inclusive of all interests, was established to review the LOP program. The two areas that received significant discussion were separating damage complaints from LOP tag allocations and setting LOP buck deer tags based on management objectives and harvest surplus. Discussion on mule deer centered on declining populations and the Departments inability to effectively manage the populations given LOP tag entitlements.

Results from those efforts yielded, amongst other things, a process where LOP buck deer tags would be allocated based on management objectives and harvest surplus. During these efforts, there was much give and take between all the interests groups in reaching an agreement (i.e., increasing non-family members from 1/3 to 1/2 of tag allocations). Now, three years later, more guaranteed tags are being allowed by significantly altering the formula that was established and agreed upon in 2013. We acknowledge that the Department can adjust the formula, but significant deviations based on social interests is counterproductive to the 2013 efforts and the recognition of declining deer herds.

OHA fully recognizes and appreciates the contributions from land owners across the state. However, given the further decline in mule deer populations, adjusting the LOP tag allocation formula significantly to allow for more guaranteed tags does not reflect responsible management at this point in time. Until

such time that mule deer populations are on the increase, ODFW should focus on effectively addressing predation, loss of habitat and poaching, as opposed to increasing tags.

Respectively Submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fred Walasavage', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Fred Walasavage

OHA State Board Chair