



HJR 16
Testimony of WaterWatch of Oregon
Submitted to the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
April 9, 2013

Founded in 1985, WaterWatch is a non-profit river conservation group dedicated to the protection and restoration of natural flows in Oregon's rivers. We work to ensure that enough water is protected in Oregon's rivers to sustain fish, wildlife, recreation and other public uses of Oregon's rivers, lakes and streams. We also work for balanced water laws and policies. WaterWatch has members across Oregon who care deeply about our rivers, their inhabitants and the effects of water laws and policies on these resources.

WaterWatch opposes HJR 16

HJR 16 proposes an amendment to the Oregon Constitution, subject to a vote by the people, which would grant a constitutional right to hunt, fish and to trap and harvest wildlife.

While hunting, fishing and trapping/harvesting wildlife are important to many Oregonians, these activities should not be elevated to a right of citizenship. Hunting, fishing and trapping/harvesting of wildlife are more properly maintained as the privilege they are today, subject to existing state law and policy. Elevating these activities to a constitutional right could lead to unintended legal consequences far into the future. \

WaterWatch opposes HJR 16 and strongly encourages the committee to oppose the bill.