

MEASURE: HB 3437
EXHIBIT: 33
HAG & NAT RESOURCES
DATE: 4-4-13 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: Bob Sallinger



March 31, 2013

Dear Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources,

I am writing on behalf of the Audubon Society of Portland and our 13,000 members to express our strong opposition to HB 3437. Audubon Society of Portland has worked for more than a century to protect Oregon's natural heritage. We were instrumental in establishing Oregon's first wildlife refuges at Klamath, Three Arch Rocks and Malheur as well as passing Oregon's first avian protection laws. Today our members continue that tradition of conservation engaging in restoration projects, participating in wildlife monitoring programs, promoting conservation values in their own communities and a wide array of other activities. Audubon works closely with ODFW on a wide array of projects including rehabilitating upwards of 3000 injured wild animals each year, responding to more than 15,000 wildlife related phone calls each year, serving on ODFW advisory committees, funding restoration activities on ODFW wildlife areas, and partnering with ODFW on conservation outreach efforts including field trips and events such as the Sauvie Island Raptor Road Trip.

Audubon and its members strongly oppose any effort to limit ODFW Commission to eligibility to a narrow subset of stakeholders. Oregon's Fish and Wildlife Resources belong to all the citizen's of Oregon and a multitude of diverse interests contribute to the health of Oregon's fish and wildlife populations. ORS 496.090(1)(6) describes the charge of the ODFW Commission as follows:

All members of the commission shall represent the public interest of the state and make decisions affecting the wildlife resources of the state for the benefit of those resources.

Limiting eligibility for the ODFW Commission to hunters and fishermen would exclude the vast majority of Oregonians who do not hunt or fish but who have just as much vested interest in the management of the State's wildlife and who also contribute to the health of the State's wildlife in a multitude of ways. Also notable is the fact that 88% of the species under ODFW's purview are not hunted or fished. At a time when the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife should be focused increasing the level of inclusivity and public engagement with the State's wildlife, this bill takes Oregon exactly the wrong direction. We urge you to vote no on HB 3437

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Sallinger". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bob Sallinger
Conservation Director
Audubon Society of Portland

Audubon Society of Portland
5151 NW Cornell Road
Portland, OR 97210
(503) 292-6855