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Chair...
Committee Members

I am here today to strongly urge this committee to support Joint Resolution 16. As a 5th generation Oregonian, I feel this heritage that I embrace, is in need of this constitutional protection. As the years have gone by, there has been a strong influx of people that have moved here from out of state, most have little or none of the hunting or fishing back grounds many of us Oregonians have enjoyed for so many years. There is also a threat by animal rights activists that would, if they prevail, cease hunting and fishing as we know it. We simply cannot allow this to happen. The fact is, hunters and fishers are among the most active, the most caring, and the hardest working stewards of these tremendous natural resources.

I'd like to share with you a little of my family history. Some of you may be familiar with the history of the area known as Sandy. My great, great, grand-father, Francis Revenue was one of the original settlers near the town of Sandy. He operated the toll bridge near the site of the current Revenue Bridge. He settled there in 1853, just in time to gather food before the winter came. That food was a product of his ability to hunt, fish, & trap to keep his family alive over the winter. Times have changed, no doubt. But my family heritage has not.

Since I can remember, I have enjoyed hunting and fishing. But there is a serious concern that I share with many who also enjoy the privileges of hunting and fishing. A concern that our enjoyment of a highly valued way of life, a quality of life beholden in long ago established rites to harvest game & fish for our food. Those rites are part of why I live in Oregon. The importance of those rituals mean so much to me, that I am here today to make the case for passage of JR 16. It is also important enough to me, that without hunting and fishing, I would consider moving to where hunting and fishing is a protected rite. Many I have spoken to feel the same as I.

I am here as a Life Member of OHA. I am also here as a Life Member of CCA, speaking on behalf of the organization, as a GRC member, representing our Oregon members in support of JR 16. I do so to assure that the heritage continues. I do so with an eye toward the future, that our younger generations will be assured that their rite to experience those same kinds of bonds with nature that me and our forefathers were so endured too.

Thank you

Dale Ballard