

May 22, 2013

**H.B. 2624A Public Hearing Testimony**

**Donald D. Gilbert,**

**Masters Degree Psy. 15 years Oregon Department of Corrections Contract Mental Health Provider. State employee as handler on the Cougar Predation Study 2004-06. Served on Oregon Dog Advisory Board, Past Oregon United Sporting Dog Association President, Past Umpqua Chapter OHA President.**

**I was born son of Dalvin Dale Gilbert born August 27 1924 in Powers Oregon. He has born to my Grandfather William Murphy Gilbert who was born in Gravel Ford Settlement near what is now known as Myrtle Point Oregon in 1889.**

**Being raised by men from this era and culture, you can imagine the racial sentiment that was handed down to me. Nowhere was it more obvious than with gays. This was a part of my moral code that I carried throughout my youth. It was not a violent hatred but an intolerance for what would be defined today as "alternative life style". As life would have it I found myself pursuing an education in psychology. Through education I found myself questioning my intolerance towards those who chose for whatever reason, be it nature or nurture, an alternative life style. In the end, I discovered my intolerance towards those with a different moral compass should be free to live by that code.**

**The point is that I was miss guided by my own father who wanted nothing but the best for me. Through education I learned the TRUTH. I encourage you to use humility in its truest, practical form. "Explore the possibility that we/you are wrong". I will be standing outside these doors handing out business cards to anyone with the courage to seek an education and accompany me and my scent dogs for a day in the woods.**

**I believe Oregonians have been miss guided by anti-hunting propaganda. Claims such as starving dogs down to the point that they hunt, that animals are run down to the point of exhaustion, that game is mauled to death by savage dogs and their handlers are outright lies. Truth is that if a handler caught wind of someone treating there animals this way he would be shunned by the scent dog community. I encourage you to seek the TRUTH through education. Take the time to meet the many handlers who are so passionate about this issue that they bring this topic into this building year after year.**

**There are many victims here. The rancher, the 4-H student, the pet owner, but most of all the resources that are being wasted by this imbalance. Deer and elk numbers are on the decline while cougar numbers rise to un-imaginable highs.**

**I encourage you to empower the diverse Oregon population and support house bill 2624A**