

Oregon Hunters Association

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Chair Witt and Member of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee:

I am Al Elkins representing The Oregon Hunters Association. I am here today to talk about HB 4075 and our concerns about the bill. As you know this bill would allow certain hunters to use battery-powered scoping devices, laser sighting devices and pin sight lights to hunt. The bill also allows a companion to harvest the animal for the disabled person. These are some of our concerns about the bill:

1. This bill would allow those individuals with disability permits to qualify for the use of “high-tech” hunting devices. According to ODFW there are some 7,000 plus hunters that would qualify under this bill. Our experience has been that this number would increase dramatically and our fear is that within a very short period of time this number would increase exponentially and more disabled hunters would qualify to use these devices. In addition the bill allows for a companion to harvest the animal for the disabled person.
2. The use of any “high-tech” hunting device brings into question the issue of fair chase. If we are going to consider using “high-tech” hunting devices then we need to examine the abundance of wildlife in Oregon and what the advancement of technology will do to hunting opportunities for Oregon hunters. As you know an unfair increase in hunting success would mean a loss of opportunity for the general hunting population.
3. Each time the usage of a “high-tech” device for hunting has been brought before the ODFW Commission it has been strongly opposed by the entire hunting community. The most recent example of this is in January 2014 the ODFW Commission tabled the request for the use of crossbows in Oregon.

In conclusion we would like to say that OHA is not opposed to offering hunting opportunities for the disabled. We support their opportunity to hunt and we have been very supportive of past legislation that has advanced their opportunities to do so.

That concludes my testimony, I would be glad to answer any questions.

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