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<u>Testimony of Brian Posewitz on House Bill 2537 (2015)</u> <u>House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources</u>

February 5, 2015

Chair Witt and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Brian Posewitz. I am here today representing a new organization called Humane Oregon. Humane Oregon was formed last year to help promote humane treatment of animals through participation in Oregon's political process and elections.

Humane Oregon supports passage of House Bill 2537. While humane treatment of animals can mean different things to different people, most people agree that humane treatment of animals at least includes respecting the laws designed to preserve and protect Oregon's wildlife.

House Bill 2537 will help encourage respect for Oregon's wildlife laws by increasing the financial and criminal penalties for violating those laws. The bill also will fill some gaps in the law designed to prevent trafficking in particular animal parts by adding bear, cougar and sturgeon to the list of animals that cannot be killed just for a few small parts from their bodies.

Thank you again for considering my comments. I would be happy to answer any questions.