



**Testimony in Support of H.B. 2534
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Presented to the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural
Resources**

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On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States and our Oregon members, I urge your support for House Bill 2534 to prohibit the use of drones for hunting purposes. Drones and other advanced technologies stack the deck so unfairly against their target and simply have no place in our state.

Using drones to take, or scout and find game animals to relay locations back to a hunter flies in the face of fair chase – a core principle of hunting ethics. This technology gives hunters an extreme advantage over those using more traditional methods.

Furthermore, the use of drones could also negatively impact wildlife populations. When wildlife biologists determine bag limits and acceptable numbers of licenses to sell, they did so with traditional hunting methods and standard success rates in mind. Because the sporting element is diminished so greatly with the use of this new technology, hunter success can increase dramatically – causing higher kill rates than originally anticipated, and leading to an unsustainable take of certain species.

In 2012 in Alaska, a moose was killed by a hunter using a drone. This incident prompted the Alaska Board of Game to propose and unanimously pass regulations last year prohibiting the use of drones to find game animals. Alaska is a much larger state than Oregon where hunters must go into much more remote areas; if the use of drones is not acceptable there, it should not be acceptable anywhere.

States are increasingly looking for ways to ban this unsporting killing method before it becomes a serious issue. The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks preceded Alaska in banning drones for locating game animals earlier last year. Vermont, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, and Illinois are also considering similar bans.

The use of drones in hunting has garnered strong opposition from animal welfare proponents as well as conservation and sportsmen's organizations including the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers Association, who worked to pass the bans in Colorado and Montana and is currently

pushing bans in other states, as well as the Pope and Young Club and Orion: The Hunter's Institute.

The Humane Society of the United States respectfully urges the committee to pass H.B. 2534 to ban the use of drones to locate, drive, or kill game animals in Oregon. Thank you for your time.