

Good morning Chairman Witt and members of your Committee,

My name is Don Byard and I am Past President on the Board at McNary Golf Club here in Keizer. I am here to talk about the potential impact of House Bill 2534 on our operations at the golf club.

We have a significant problem with geese on the golf course both eating the grass and leaving a mess for the golfers to wade through. We spend up to 56 man hours a week patrolling the course to encourage the geese to go somewhere else.

I clearly do not understand the difference between a toy helicopter and a drone. And I do not yet know if a drone type vehicle would be useful in preventing geese from spending hours on our pristine fairways.

I do, however, have a vision of a drone type vehicle with the eagle head attached that would fly in a GPS controlled pattern over the areas most preferred by the geese and they would simply fly away. Thereby saving us a significant amount of man-hours to do the same job.

The point is, these drones have many possible positive applications that have yet to be explored. It seems premature to give the Fish and Wildlife Agency the authority to just say no to harassment. This approach was used for the use of

fireworks for harassment purposes. As a result we have been unable to use any type of fireworks to discourage the geese from our fairways.

By not looking at the other side of regulations, it causes lots of turmoil to come back and adjust laws that have been passed. This is clearly exemplified by House Bill 2432, still in the process, where fire works may now be permitted on golf courses, airports, estuaries, etc.

I also developed a vineyard in 1973 in nearby Eola Hills and can think of many uses that a drone could be used for bird control in the vineyard.

Although in this case, it is robins and starlings that represent the problem, but will this option of drone use be eliminated by this bill also?

I thank you for listening to my concerns. Are there any questions?

Don Byard

503 580-0774

byard.d.c@comcast.net

623 Castle Pines Dr N

Keizer, OR 97303