



## MEMORANDUM

TO: House Committee On Judiciary  
FROM: Quinn Read, Wildlife Coordinator, Oregon Wild  
DATE: May 7, 2015  
RE: Testimony in support of SB 175 - Relating to wildlife penalties

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On behalf of Oregon Wild's 15,000 members and supporters, we would like to express our support for SB 175 to restore poaching penalty language that was enacted in 2011 and sunsetted this year. Oregon Wild's mission is to protect and restore Oregon's wildlands, wildlife, and water as an enduring legacy for all Oregonians. We enthusiastically support this measure and submit the following comments for consideration and incorporation into the record.

Poaching is of significant concern to our organization. Oregon Wild is working as part of a coalition to help the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife -- the agency charged with protecting and conserving our state's native fish and wildlife -- address its current budget shortfall and seek creative solutions for long-term financial sustainability. Poaching shows a flagrant disregard for the agency and the wildlife laws it seeks to implement and enforce. It also takes already limited resources away from the people who play by the rules and act lawfully with respect to wildlife-based recreation.

SB 175 merely restores penalty language for illegal poaching of wildlife that was passed in 2011 but which sunsetted on January 1, 2015. These penalty provisions were passed in 2011 with strong bipartisan support and strong support from the hunting, fishing and conservation communities. Passing SB 175 will maintain the wildlife protections that were passed in 2011 and were in effect between 2012 and 2015. Failing to pass SB 175 will take us backwards to weaker protections that were in place prior to 2012.

Oregon Wild supports SB 175 and the dash 6 amendments, and any efforts to maintain and strengthen anti-poaching laws in Oregon. The measure demonstrates Oregon's continuing leadership in fighting poaching and affirms Oregon's commitment to supporting comprehensive wildlife management and enforcement of our wildlife laws.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these issues.