

CoChair Delvin, CoChair Rayfield, members of the committee

My name is Derek Barclay, and I'm a longtime resident of Corvallis, and a lifelong resident of the state of Oregon, great grandson of an early emigrant to the state who received a donation land grant in what is now southern Benton County in 1850.

I am a long time supporter of ODF&W, purchasing many sportsman's pack license packages during my working years, without any intent of utilizing the majority of tags and permits. I have volunteered for both stocking and fin clipping activities at a local hatchery.

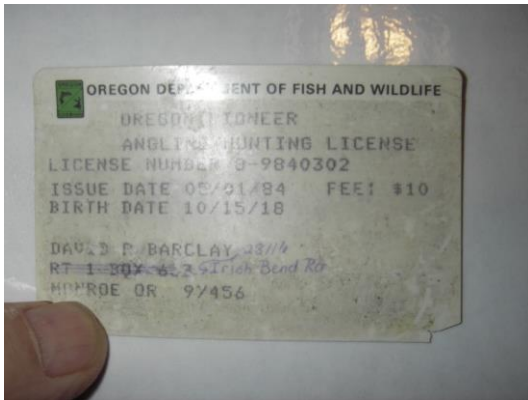
In 2011, I applied for and received a Pioneer license. The license was accompanied by a letter, which stated " You will receive this free combination license as long as you are a resident of the State of Oregon." That statement is reiterated in current descriptions of the pioneer license on State licensure and ODF&W websites.

ODF&W is asking you, with this bill, to break that promise, to convert the pioneer license to an annual license with fee attached, making the above statement a lie, and paving the way for future increases in fees for it, much as has occurred with the Senior hunting license (free in 1984, ½ the price of a conventional license now, but getting a whopping 49% increase if you pass this bill unaltered)

ODF&W has stated their goal is to receive Pittman Robertson and Dingall Johnson funds for pioneer licensees.. Approximately 30% of pioneer licensees do qualify for such funds, since they purchase additional "privileges" in the form of tags and permits which allow them to qualify. I purchase such permits and tags, in 2013 totaling \$119, and in 2014 totaling \$94.50. If I purchase similarly in 2016, the department will only receive an additional \$6 (the license fee, plus considerable animus). If this bill passes unaltered, I can assure you that I will not purchase similarly, if the department can renege on it's promise, I can certainly renege on my support. As the Department is well aware, this is discretionary spending. For me this isn't about the money, it's about the principal.

Do not allow this provision of this bill to pass. It is a prize long sought by many lifelong Oregonians. Those wishing to support ODF&W with additional funds, can either donate to ODF&W, or simply pay full fees, and not apply for a Pioneer license, it is not automatic.

In 1946, the state of Oregon created the pioneer license. This license has long been free (subject to administrative fees paid for it's issuance) to citizens of the state of Oregon who have been residents for 50 years and for the six months prior to the application for the license. My father (still living on the centennial farm) holds one of these licenses issued in 1984.



It lists a fee (\$10) which was apparently the cost of a combined pioneer hunting and pioneer fishing license plus additional privileges. It should be noted that it has NO expiration date. He has held this license for so long that, even though his place of residence has not changed, his postal address was been changed by the USPS. He dutifully wrote that new address on the card (although I doubt he notified ODF&W)

### 1984 License and Tag Fees

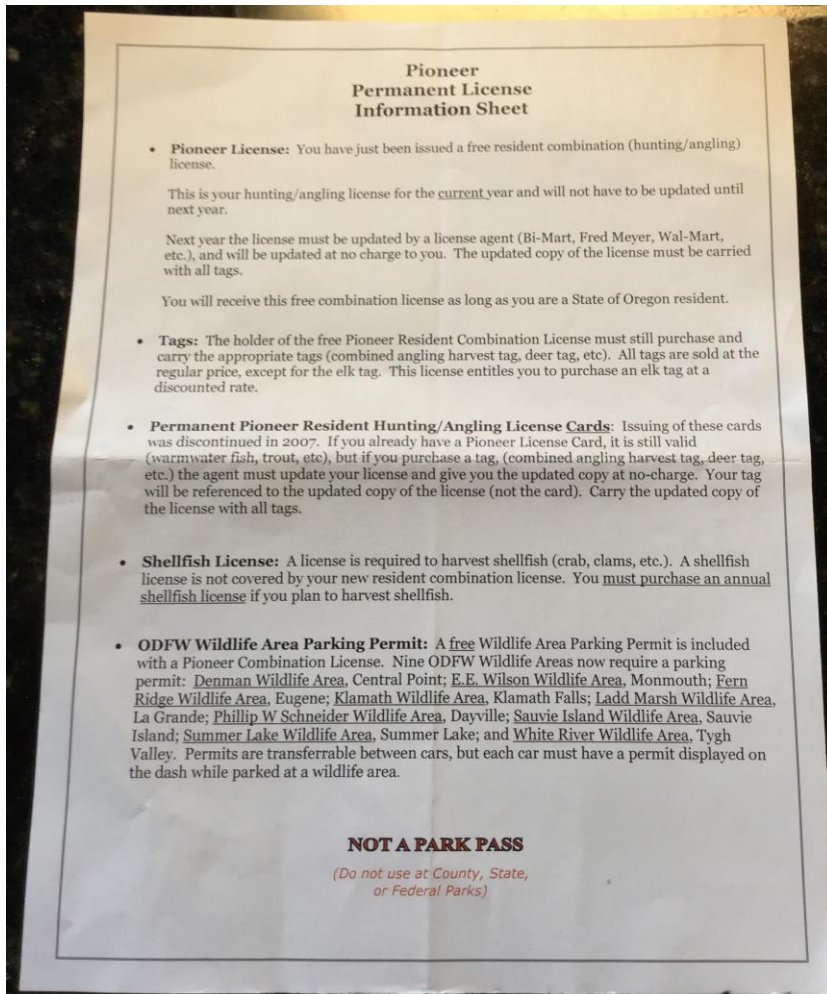
License and tag fees are not refundable

RESIDENT		NONRESIDENT	
Resident Hunter's License .....	\$ 8.00	Nonresident Hunter's License .....	75.00
Resident Combination Angler's and Hunter's License .....	18.00	Nonresident Hunter's License for Game Birds Only .....	50.00
Resident Juvenile Hunter's License <sup>2</sup> .....	2.00	Nonresident Deer Tag (rifle or bow) <sup>1</sup> .....	50.00
Resident Deer tag (rifle or bow) <sup>1</sup> .....	4.00	Nonresident Elk Tag (rifle or bow) <sup>1</sup> .....	105.00
Resident Elk Tag (rifle or bow) <sup>1</sup> .....	15.00	Nonresident Bear Tag <sup>1</sup> .....	75.00
Resident Bear Tag <sup>1</sup> .....	5.00	Nonresident Antelope Tag <sup>1</sup> .....	125.00
Resident Antelope Tag <sup>1</sup> .....	10.00	Nonresident Cougar Tag .....	150.00
Resident Sheep Tag <sup>1</sup> .....	25.00	ISSUED BY THE PORTLAND OFFICE ONLY	
Resident Cougar Tag <sup>1</sup> .....	20.00	*Bear Pursuit Permit .....	5.00
ISSUED BY THE PORTLAND OFFICE ONLY		*Nonresident Trapper's License for Furbearers .....	75.00
*Bear Pursuit Permit .....	5.00	*Nonresident Hunting License for Furbearers (General Nonresident Hunting License also required) (Calendar Year) .....	75.00
*Disabled War Veteran License (residents only) .....	Free	NOTE:	
*Disabled War Veteran Elk Tag <sup>1</sup> .....	2.50	<sup>1</sup> Hunter's License also required.	
*Pioneers (65 years old - 50 years residence in state)		<sup>2</sup> To secure big game tags, a resident juvenile must first obtain a \$8.00 Resident Hunter's License.	
*Pioneers <u>Hunting</u> License .....	1.00	<sup>3</sup> See Furbearer Regulations for fee.	
*Pioneers Elk Tag <sup>1</sup> .....	2.50	*These licenses and tags may be obtained by mail or in person through the Portland office. Applications are available at Regional offices.	
*Senior Citizens Hunting and Fishing License (70 years old — 5 years residence in state) .....	Free		
*Resident Trapper's License for Furbearers .....	10.00		
*Resident Hunting License for Furbearers (General Hunting License also required) (Calendar Year) .....	5.00		

He was an elk hunter, so I'm sure that the Pioneer elk tag was a part of the fee, and he also fished (note that his Pioneer license is a combined Hunting and Fishing license). I don't know, nor does he remember what privileges he purchased in addition to the Pioneer hunting license to account for the final charge of \$10. At 96 years old, he no longer is physically able to participate in hunting or fishing, although at 91, he was able to join me for one last fishing trip out of Newport, and caught a coho salmon. His pioneer license was honored at that time, and he purchased a combined harvest tag for the trip.

I also hold a pioneer license, first issued in 2011, and reissued annually thereafter. The Department has changed issuance of a permanent lifetime card such as my father's, to an annually reissued, albeit free, permanent and lifetime license. This was perhaps done so that they could include HIP information from pioneer license holders at time of annual re-issuance (however such HIP information is not collected from card holders prior to 2007 unless they purchase an additional tag or permit). At the time of first issuance, current

pioneer license holders receive the following document from ODF&W along with their first license:



The Department of Fish and Wildlife is asking the Oregon Legislature to renege on the promise of a free, permanent, lifetime license for as long as the recipient remains an Oregon resident. They wish to place an annual fee of \$6 on this license. They have justified this action in several ways:

1. They are losing federal matching Pittman Robertson and Dingall Johnson funds on each pioneer license if the licensee purchases no further privileges. This amounts to \$14 dollars (in lost revenues if the Pioneer license holder (such as my 96 year old father) doesn't purchase a hunting stamp or tag, or a fishing combined harvest card. This figure was increased in Director Melcher's testimony to \$20.
2. With the aging of the Baby Boomer generation, they are losing full license fees as the post WWII "Boomers" reach 65 years of age, and of course they project this

- number to increase in coming years. The \$6 fee offsets some of the revenue lost when persons qualify for the Pioneer license
3. The department is in serious budgetary straits, and “can no longer afford” the loss of fees for the Pioneer license, nor to leave federal matching funds “unrealized”.
  4. The department conducted a poll of approximately 60,000 purchasers of licenses, and the concept of a fee for the Pioneer license was approved by a majority of every age group!

My response to the above arguments:

1. This is true in part. If persons such as my father don't purchase additional privileges, the department doesn't receive federal dollars. *And they never have!!!* However, if the fee for the Pioneer license were imposed, it would be ridiculous for me to assist my father in purchasing an annual Pioneer license, which he will never use. There are many license holders with cards issued prior to 2007. They are 74 years old and older, some perhaps still actively hunt and fish, others may not. There is no provision in this bill to attempt to notify these card holders that their pioneer license is now expired, and must be renewed. I would imagine that even contacting them is problematic, since seniors move to retirement communities, assisted living facilities, etc., and there was never a requirement for the card information to be updated (note my father hand writing his corrected address on his card). And of course many are dead. I, however, as a pioneer license holder do purchase additional hunting and fishing “privileges”. The state collects \$14 in matching Federal funds for my “privileges”. Apparently the purchase of hunting or fishing related “privileges” is evidence the Federal government accepts as proof of purchase of a hunting or fishing license (*purchase* of such licenses being required to support receipt of Federal dollars). Thus a fee for the Pioneer license will net the Department (from me) \$6 (the proposed fee for the Pioneer license). It is and will continue to net them a whole lot of animus from me. It isn't about the money, it's about the principle, promise a free, permanent, lifetime license; then renege.
2. The population of the state has increased by over 1 million people since 1975, and yet the state issued about 80,000 fewer hunting licenses and 67,000 fewer fishing licenses in 2013 than it had in 1975. More persons, fewer hunters and fishermen, less license fees. Poor recruitment of new hunters and fisher persons would appear to be the culprit, not the small loss of revenues to persons qualifying for pioneer licenses. I watched the three candidates for the Directorship of the department during their webcam interviews. All called for mentors as one part of a solution to this poor recruitment. Who more qualifies as mentors than seniors who have spent a lifetime hunting and fishing, and have the time and resources to pass their knowledge and passion along. And yet, while the Department cites efforts to keep license and fee increases as low as possible, they have disproportionately targeted senior citizens. Regular licenses were increased in this budget by about 12%, while Senior licenses are being increased by 49-67%, and a fee has been attached to the Pioneer license (please note that in that 1984 hunting synopsis fee schedule, the *Senior* hunting license was *free*).

The department appears to have never collected fees for the Pioneer license once issued, only an administrative fee to set it up (that still takes place, and the fee is currently \$2). Likewise, the department does not collect fees from the 89% of the population of this state that do not purchase hunting or fishing licenses *at all*. This cannot be considered lost revenue, since it was never revenue. However, it is clearly revenue the department feels entitled to, as they state in their defense of the fees schedule: *“Charging for the Pioneer Combination license helps offset some of the revenue lost when an individual qualifies for a Pioneer Combination license. Using current prices, the department loses up to \$72 in revenue when a person switches from a paid combination license to the free Pioneer Combination license (\$58 for the license and \$14 in federal funds.)”*

3. And for those Pioneer license holders who do purchase additional tags and permits, Federal funds are collected under Pittman Robertson and Dingall Johnson. As the department is well aware, purchases of any of their products is totally discretionary. Fail to persuade the customer, lose the revenue. I, as I'm sure others do, purchase a suite of tags and permits because I *might* chose to pursue that particular fish or game. I purchase duck and upland game stamps, combined harvest tags for fish, as well as additional privileges such as the 2 rod permit and pheasant permit which allows me to hunt on E.E. Wilson state refuge. Some years, although not 2014, I purchase a deer tag. These are purchased “prospectively”, i.e. I purchase them because I *might* want to pursue these activities. And for the years in which a deer tag is included in my purchases, the Department receives \$119 in revenues. If the fee for the Pioneer license is instituted, I intend to make my purchases “of necessity”, i.e., not purchase “privileges” unless I am sure I will use them. And the Department makes this easy to do for most “privileges”, since you can purchase them online, and print and use the tag or permit immediately. In the past 10 years I have harvested a total of 5 partridge, no waterfowl, and no deer, primarily through no effort. So I would not purchase upland game stamps, waterfowl stamps and deer tags prospectively. Net loss to the Department= \$40. I also would not purchase the 2 rod license or the Pheasant tag. Net loss to the Department=\$34. I would purchase the Pioneer license, the Ocean Endorsement, and the Combined Harvest tag for total revenue to ODF&W of \$56.50 (including the \$14 in Federal funds). Net total loss to the department if no other opportunities arose for me to pursue other fish or game: -\$62.50 or the equivalent of 3 pioneer licenses with federal matching dollars. I only give these numbers to cite one example of the house of cards the figures ODFW is using for revenues for the pioneer license. All of those persons who obtained the license prior to 2007 are under the impression that their card entitles them to hunt and fish with no further purchases (provided they do not pursue fish or wildlife requiring an additional “privilege”). So they are going to be unaware that they now possess an “expired” permanent lifetime license. Others have obtained the annually reissued pioneer license, simply because it only cost \$2 and had no further costs attached. One of the folks that I talked to who has been chronically underemployed for the last ten years, obtained the pioneer license because it would never cost him anything. When I asked him if he was going to pay a \$6 fee, he replied that he'd gotten along without any licenses for

- those ten years, and he didn't see a problem with not having them again. Wives might get one, just because their hunter/fisherman husband talked them into it "just in case", but would they annually renew it, knowing a charge is attached?
4. Finally, the "poll". Apparently the department polled 60,000 people who were purchasing hunting and/or fishing licenses as to whether they thought the pioneer license should have a fee attached. This poll was heavily age biased, the younger the respondent, the more likely they were to think there should be a charge. You could probably get similar numbers for privatization of Social Security, or whether social security benefits should be subject to Oregon income tax. Since the people polled were *purchasing* licenses, I'm not sure that Pioneer licensees were even included, certainly not the ones with the permanent card, possibly not the ones who got the free annual license. AND the poll included non-resident purchasers. People who purchased out of state licenses from other places got a voice (Californians!!!!) It heavily favored polling people who would never qualify for a pioneer license, and certainly excluded at least some pioneer license holders. Of the 5 people other than myself that I know to have a Pioneer license, none had heard of any "Poll". And just a final thought on personal opinions about issuing free Pioneer licenses. ....*It's not automatic, you don't have to get one.* If you meet all the qualifications for a Pioneer license but feel that the tribulations of the Department of Fish and Wildlife warrant all the help they can get, just don't apply and you will continue to pay full bore prices for the hunting, fishing, or combination licenses.

Director Melcher's testimony in defense of SB 5511 glossed over several pertinent areas. Absolutely no mention of the disproportionate increases to the Senior license. He also made no mention that the Department of Fish and Wildlife is asking you, the Oregon Legislature to renege and make the promise of a Permanent, Lifetime Pioneer license a lie. You cannot attach a fee to a permanent license and expire that license if the fee is not paid. So in order for the promise to be kept, the license must remain "...a free combination angling and hunting license for Oregon residents that have resided in Oregon for at least 50 years and have reached the age of 65" and is "valid as long as license remains an Oregon resident". (from "***Oregon Licenses, Permits and Registrations***" at : [http://licenseinfo.oregon.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=license\\_seng&link\\_item\\_id=14324](http://licenseinfo.oregon.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=license_seng&link_item_id=14324) )

I am asking you to reject this portion of the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife fee schedule. I firmly believe that ODF&W is attempting to trivialize the Pioneer license, a highly valued prize of many seniors in Oregon. If a fee is attached to the Pioneer license, it is then just another annual license subject to the same rounds of increases that have pushed a Senior hunting license listed as FREE in 1984 to the current \$13.75, and the proposed \$20.50 it will be in 2016.

Thank you for your attention.