

14 May, 2015

The Honorable Brad Witt
Members, House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee



Subject: HB 2049

Dear Representative Witt,

When HB 4075 was introduced during the 2014 session, members of this committee had many concerns and questions about the intent of this bill. While there have been several positive changes clarifying HB 2049 for the "visually impaired hunter", I can't see where the essence of HB 2049 has changed from the original (HB 4075).

Changes include:

1. The word hunter has been changed seven times to **a person with a disability**.
2. HB 2049 appears to create a "*visually impaired hunter license*" (line 11)?
3. The "Companion":
 - **Must be at least 12 years of age** (lack of hunting experience is a concern). (line 29).
 - **Cannot have a visual impairment**. (Pg 2, line 1).

TAO (Traditional Archers of Oregon) will always have serious reservations about technology creep into primitive weapons hunting seasons with gadgets for bows or arrows which would be legalized by HB 2049. Archery technology such as lighted nocks, laser broadheads, cross bows and even more advanced platforms like the AIRROW RIMFIRE (<http://www.swivelmachine.com/html/rimfire.htm>) continue to be offered. How long will it be until the folks at TRACKING POINT have a "SMART" BOW to complement their "SMART" RIFLE (<http://www.tracking-point.com>)?

TAO suggests that technology is becoming a substitute for "traditional" hunting skills.

However, the most serious concern with this bill is allowing someone **to shoot a game bird or animal on behalf of the hunter while in the immediate presence of the hunter**. Such action flies in the face of fair chase and hunting ethics. Further, it could plant the notion that party hunting is O.K. in the mind of a 12 year old.

Traditional Archers of Oregon recommend you vote against HB 2049.

Best Regards,

Rich Thompson
Newberg, OR
Director, Traditional Archers of Oregon