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Testimony of Humane Oregon on House Bill 4046 B (2016)
Senate Committee on Rules

February 25, 2016

Chair Rosenbaum and members of the Committee:

My name is Brian Posewitz. I submit this testimony on behalf Humane Oregon. Humane Oregon is a nonprofit organization formed in 2014 to help advocate for animal welfare in Oregon's political process and elections. I am a board member and the administrator for Humane Oregon.

Humane Oregon supports passage of House Bill 4046 B. Thank you for giving the bill a hearing and possible work session under the tight time constraints of the current legislative session.

While humane treatment of animals means different things to different people, surely it includes respecting the laws that limit when, where, how, and for what purpose, wildlife may be killed.

House Bill 4046 would help encourage respect for Oregon's wildlife laws by increasing the financial and criminal penalties for violating those laws. The bill also would help reduce illegal killing of animals solely for the commercial value of their body parts by expanding on the prohibitions against taking and using only certain parts of certain animals.

House Bill 4046 is a continuation of efforts last session (HB 2537) to increase poaching penalties. This year's bill is more modest and less complicated in ways that generally make sense and recognize political realities.

Last year's bill was supported by a broad range of stakeholders – from hunting and angling groups to animal welfare organizations. This year's bill, which is even more modest, should be similarly supported and should be passed.

Thank you for considering my comments.

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