



April 12, 2017

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Hearing: 8am, April 13, 2017, Room HR D

**Re: Opposition to H.B.3429**

Dear Chair Clem, Vice Chair McLain and committee members:

As a former member of the Oregon legislature, wildlife enthusiast and chief petitioner of Measure 100, I urge you to oppose H.B. 3429. Measure 100 received nearly 70 percent of approval from Oregon voters last November to reinforce our state's long tradition of protecting imperiled species affected by market demand and global poaching. I am deeply concerned that H.B.3429 would weaken Measure 100 and thus overturn the will of our voters.

Measure 100 prohibits the sales of parts and products of 12 types of wild animals including elephants, rhinos, sea turtles and sharks and rays. The scope and text of Measure 100 were public information and readily available online. Measure 100, like other referendum issues on the election ballot last November, went through a transparent and democratic process as mandated by the Oregon statutes. There were ample opportunities for the public and special interest groups to weigh in during the months-long electoral process. The resounding approval of Measure 100 by the majority of the Oregon voters is a clear demonstration that our citizens support a strong anti-wildlife trafficking measure and are in favor of shutting down Oregon's contribution to market demands fueling the population declines of many iconic species worldwide.

H.B.3429 would affect and reduce the list of covered species, namely sharks and rays. Globally, shark and rays face a myriad of threats, such as overfishing, illegal and unregulated fishing and market demand for their parts and products. One fourth of shark and ray species are threatened with extinction. Given that there are over 1,000 shark and ray species around the

globe, should HB. 3429 pass, I am extremely concerned about the tremendous burden on our enforcement officers. Under H.B. 3429, before the enforcement agency can take any enforcement action, they would need to be able to ascertain which shark or ray species that a part or product is from and to know each species' conservation status. A clear, bright line prohibiting the purchase, sale, and trade of all shark and ray species makes compliance simpler and enforcement easier. It is critical that all shark and ray species included in the Measure remain covered by the protections set forth in the Measure.

Measure 100 is similar to the enacted laws adopted in other West Coast states. H.B. 3429 would set a terrible precedent to disregard the Oregon voters' strong support for a democratically-approved ballot measure. It would also blemish our state's tradition and upstanding record to safeguard animals that are facing the threat of extinction and affected by poaching and wildlife trafficking cruelty.

As a former elected official, I urge you to respect the will of Oregon voters and oppose H.B.3429.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce Starr

Chief Petitioner, Measure 100