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Testimony of Humane Oregon on House Bill 3429 (2017)
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
April 12, 2017

Chair Clem, Vice Chair McLain, Vice Chair Sprenger, and members of the Committee:

Humane Oregon is a bi-partisan, non-profit organization formed in 2014 to advocate for animal welfare in Oregon's political process and elections. We are a moderate but progressive animal welfare organization, with board members from many different parts of Oregon's animal welfare community.

Humane Oregon opposes HB3429 because it would materially weaken Ballot Measure 100 (2016). Humane Oregon was one of many groups that worked to put Measure 100 on the ballot and get it approved by voters. That took an extraordinary amount of time and effort from numerous everyday Oregonians who cared deeply about the welfare of animals being killed for trade in their body parts. HB 3429 would disrespect those efforts, along with the will of the nearly 70 percent of voters who voted for the measure.

HB3429 would undermine the efficacy of Measure 100 by significantly reducing the number of protected species and by complicating enforcement as to the remaining species. It would reduce the protected species to include only species listed in Appendix I or Appendix II of CITES or as vulnerable, endangered, critically endangered, extinct in the wild or extinct on the IUCN Red List. This may sound like an appealing way to protect only the species that need protection, but in fact it leaves threatened species, particularly of sharks and rays, vulnerable in two ways. Firstly, there may be a gap between the species that are actually threatened and the species the list makers have enough data on to determine threat level in a timely fashion. Secondly, most people do not have the expertise to differentiate over 1,000 species of sharks and rays, crippling the law by making compliance and enforcement extremely difficult.

Measure 100 voters did not vote to protect only the species officially determined to meet certain endangerment criteria. They voted "to prohibit purchase, sale, or possession with intent to sell of parts/products from elephant, rhinoceros, whale, tiger, lion, leopard, cheetah, jaguar, pangolin, sea turtle, shark, ray." We hope you will respect this vote, respect endangered wildlife, and join us in opposing HB 3429.

Thank you for considering our comments.

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