

Dear Representative Clem and Honorable Committee Members,

Please do not pass this bill, which goes against what 70 % of the voters passed just last year. Measure 100 was a bill that was carefully crafted to reduce trafficking in important endangered species. It was well thought out with the backing of several animal advocacy organizations and their experts on endangered species. There is no real reason to amend this bill and reduce it's protections.

Politicians should not be assuming they know more about endangered species than those who are biologists, and specialists in the area of endangered species and their trafficking.

Hundreds of dedicated volunteers (myself as one of them) volunteered many hours to get signatures and canvas voters to inform them on the values of Measure 100. The voters passed the measure overwhelmingly supporting it. They did not expect their legislators to amend it and water it down for their own reasons.

It is especially disturbing that HB 3429 seems to reduce the covered list of shark and ray species. These species apparently do fit the endangered category, and sharks are top predators that are vital to keep the whole ocean ecosystem healthy, which research in the past several years has made clear. Endanger sharks (which has already occurred), and you ultimately endanger all the other organisms down the line, that these top predators help keep in balance.

It would be a shame to pass this bill. Once the public would learn that their legislators have changed so quickly what the voters passed with a 70 % majority, they will be angry.

Please do not let a few special interests influence passage of this bill, which is not needed, and goes against the will of most Oregonians, and would be a slap in the face of all of us volunteers who worked so hard and so passionately to get Measure 100 passed.

Sincerely, Laurel Hines, 10371 Lake Drive SE, Salem, Oregon 97306