

**To: Rep. Brian Clem, Chair
House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee**

From: Kristin Leppert, Campaign Director, SEA-OR

Re: HB 3429

Date: April 13, 2017

Dear Chair Clem and Committee Members:

The Save Endangered Animals Coalition strongly opposes HB 3429. Hundreds of volunteers worked tirelessly to collect over 150,000 signatures to place our initiative on the ballot so nearly 70 percent of Oregon voters from a majority of counties could vote to pass Measure 100 including the constituents in every district represented by the members of this committee.

The broad coalition of organizations that support Measure 100 include local and national groups like the Oregon Zoo Foundation, Oregon Coast Aquarium, The Asia Pacific American Network for Oregon (APANO), Vulcan, Inc., National Wildlife Foundation, Oregon Family Council, and the Oregon Humane Society. These organizations were united in supporting all the provisions of Measure 100, which was carefully crafted to give the broadest protections possible to a list of 12 taxa of animals that are facing extinction due to the global poaching crisis.

28 newspapers across Oregon endorsed Measure 100 including The Oregonian, Medford Mail Tribune, Corvallis Gazette-Times, Albany Democrat-Herald, East Oregonian, Gazette Times, Klamath Falls Herald and News, and Newport News Times.

Measure 100 garnered bipartisan support from 38 elected officials including Governor Brown, our chief petitioners: Congressman Earl Blumenauer, Bruce Starr and Tom Hughes.

Because of the overwhelming support Measure 100 received, we are understandably concerned about any attempt by Oregon lawmakers to modify the measure beyond what was passed by the voters. We strongly oppose H.B. 3429, as it changes the list of species the measure was designed to protect and thwarts the will of Oregon's voters by changing the substance and spirit of Measure 100. It is important for the Oregon legislature to respect the voters and Oregon's initiative process by keeping the law intact. Our voters deserve to have their choice to protect endangered animals upheld and respected by their senators and representatives.

The Save Endangered Animals coalition appreciates your consideration of our position on this legislation, and we thank you for your service to the people of Oregon.

Kristin Leppert, Campaign Director

Save Endangered Animals Oregon Coalition:





The Oregonian

“Rational exceptions are listed in the measure to allow certain law enforcement activities, the possession of antiques over 100 years old, and noncommercial transfers through gifts, among others. But the heart of the measure is sane, simple and overdue: Let's help stop the carnage. Vote yes.”

Medford Mail Tribune

“California and Washington have enacted laws against such trade. It's time for Oregon to join with them in cracking down on trade that hastens the decline of many beloved animal species around the world, including elephants, whales, jaguars, lions, leopards, cheetahs and sea turtles.”

Tillamook County Pioneer

“Measure 100 would prohibit the sale of products from 12 species of endangered animals ... It sounds crazy, but this is a major issue in Oregon, where illegal ivory, horns, animal paws, turtle shells and shark fins are exported to Asia.”

The Eugene Register-Guard

“Poaching endangered animals is big business, and a dirty one — among illegally trafficked goods, only drugs, weapons and humans generate larger dollar volumes, and those who deal in one of these forms of contraband often deal in the others as well, corrupting governments and funding criminal enterprises. The poaching will continue as long as there is demand for animal parts.”

The Albany Democrat Herald & Corvallis Gazette-Times

“The measure would plug an odd hole in existing Oregon law The measure does include common-sense exceptions; for example, if you've inherited an antique piece that contains, say, ivory, Measure 100 won't turn you into a criminal... Passing Measure 100 in Oregon could fuel similar efforts in other states, and that could make a big difference. We recommend a "yes" vote on Measure 100.”

The Coos Bay World

“Measure 100 to prohibit the sale of products from and parts of 12 species of endangered animals. We recommend voting yes...”

Newport News Times

“Measure 100 is clear, concise and commonsense. Don't you wish all decisions were this easy? Vote yes on Measure 100.”

Klamath Falls Herald and News

“The measure “prohibits purchase/ sale of parts/ products from certain wildlife species ... It's aimed at prohibiting trade in animals that encourages a species' eventual demise. Our recommendation: Yes.”

Pamplin Media

“And, yes it's true that in most cases there are already federal bans on many of these items. But it's also true that in Oregon it's much more likely for law enforcement to encounter endangered animal parts on sale within state lines, instead of on the docks. Under current law, once those products are through the port of entry, the state has no ability to ban their sale.”

East Oregonian, Daily Astorian, Portland Tribune, The News-Register, The Woodburn Independent, The Tigard & Tualatin Times, The Newberg Graphic, The News Times, The Lake Oswego Review, Beaverton Valley Times, Gresham Outlook

Ashland Daily Tidings

“Supporters say there is a shadowy market in ivory, rhinoceros horn and other items in the state. Federal law prohibits such sales, but the Endangered Species Act does not apply to in-state trade. We recommend yes. “

Willamette Week

“But at worst, this is a measure that would make sport hunters think twice before trying to sell their big-game trophies. (It doesn't ban possession, so you won't have to worry about your ivory key chain.) At best, it could discourage international traffickers from making a home base here. Score one for Cecil the Lion, and vote yes.”

Oregon Family Council

“Consider the story of Noah. God not only preserved human life in the ark, but the animals, too. In its essence Measure 100 seeks to protect exotic animals that are trafficked solely for profit.”

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

“We believe an Oregon prohibition on the purchase and sale of parts or products from endangered animals would help shrink an illegal wildlife trade that destroys life, undermines the developing world's economic potential, and is environmentally ruinous.”