

April 18, 2017

**To:** Representative Brian Clem, Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

**From:** Lisa Brisley, Volunteer, Save Endangered Animals Oregon

**Re: Opposition to HB 3429**

Dear Chair Clem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in opposition to HB 3429.

As a dedicated volunteer for Save Endangered Animals Oregon (SEA-OR), I strongly oppose HB 3429 that would weaken Measure 100, one of the strongest state-level measures in the country to combat wildlife trafficking and the illegal wildlife trade. Oregon has emerged as one of the nation's leaders in anti-wildlife trafficking laws, thanks to the strength of the carefully crafted Measure 100 and to the nearly 70 percent of Oregon voters who voted "Yes on 100" in November 2016.

I respectfully urge you to **Vote No on HB 3429** in order to preserve the original language and intent of Measure 100, and to uphold the will of the voters.

The task of gathering 150,000 signatures to place Measure 100 on the November 2016 ballot was not an easy one, but it was one of the most rewarding and life-changing experiences for me. Just like the hundreds of Save Endangered Animals Oregon volunteers across the state, I spent days, evenings, and weekends talking to hundreds and thousands of Oregon voters about a state initiative that once on the ballot would be called Measure 100. Their responses were overwhelming. At first, when Oregon voters listened to me talk about Measure 100, they were shocked to learn that Oregon was the only state on the West Coast that had not yet enacted strict measures to combat wildlife trafficking. They were deeply concerned about the plight of endangered animals, saddened for the poaching and wildlife trafficking victims, and eager to help protect the remaining endangered animals from experiencing similar fates. As they reached out to take the pen from my hand to sign the petition, they were proud that Oregon was joining its West Coast neighbors to stop wildlife trafficking by ensuring that Oregon does not provide a market for endangered species parts and products resulting from wildlife poaching and trafficking. They were honored to be part of the legislative process that would allow their voices to be heard through their signatures, and ultimately through their votes. And lastly, they were thankful to me and to the hundreds of Save Endangered Animals Oregon volunteers for taking our time to raise awareness and to encourage action in order to protect 12 of the most highly trafficked endangered animals from cruelty, poaching, and the threat of extinction. To have the opportunity to witness first-hand the stages of transformation that each individual went through starting from a state of shock, to deep concern, to an eagerness to help, to a feeling of pride, honor and gratitude, and then ending with each individual taking action by way of signing a petition (and then ultimately voting "yes" on Measure 100) was so profound and moving. And to witness that transformation a hundred times over was life-changing.

And now, only five months since Measure 100 passed by an overwhelming majority vote of nearly 70 to 30 and is waiting to take effect on July 1, 2017, special interest groups are already trying to weaken and overturn Measure 100 with the introduction of HB 3429. HB 3429 undermines the carefully crafted language of Measure 100 and would remove critical protections for animals who are rapidly declining and disappearing due to the global poaching and wildlife trafficking crisis. For example, HB 3429 proposes to amend and reduce the list of animals covered by Measure 100 by limiting protections to only those species listed on Appendix I or II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) or only those listed as vulnerable, endangered, critically endangered, extinct in the wild or extinct on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. HB 3429 would dramatically reduce the number of shark and ray species covered by Measure 100.

As an English teacher, I appreciate and understand the nuance of language. Even the smallest, seemingly minor modifications of words and phrases can completely change meanings, intentions and outcomes with sometimes lasting and devastating effects. HB 3429 is an example of how language is being used to manipulate an outcome that will only benefit special interest groups and will have lasting, devastating effects on the animals that Measure 100 seeks to protect.

Thank you for your consideration to **Vote No on HB 3429**. And as always, I thank you for your service to the people of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Lisa Brisley, Volunteer, Save Endangered Animals Oregon (SEA-OR)