



*Umpqua Valley Audubon Society*  
PO Box 381  
Roseburg, Oregon 97470

May 9, 2017

Re: HB 2525, Amendment A3

Dear Senators Dembrow, Olsen, Baertschiger, Prozanski, and Roblan:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill 2525 (HB 2525), which addresses the donation of game meat to food banks and other charitable organizations. Currently game meat that is donated just has to be checked for disease and lesions. Senator Steiner-Hayward has introduced an amendment (A3) which would require that donated game meat also be checked for lead ammunition.

Umpqua Valley Audubon Society recognizes and supports the contribution made by hunter donation organizations to the reduction of food insecurity in our state through donation of game meat. However, we also believe that it is critical to include amendment A3 to require that the game meat inspection process include screening to ensure that it is free of lead contamination. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has determined that there is no safe blood lead level for children without deleterious effects. It is well documented that lead is toxic to multiple human organ systems, affecting the central nervous, renal, cardiovascular, reproductive, immune, and hematologic systems, as well as being potentially carcinogenic. Lead-based ammunition has been shown to pose "a significant source of lead exposure in humans that ingest wild game". It has been posited that "no rational deliberation about the use of lead-based ammunition can ignore the overwhelming evidence for the toxic effects of lead, or that the discharge of lead bullets and shot into the environment poses significant risks of lead exposure to humans and wildlife". Responsible certification of donated meat as "fit for human consumption" should include verifying that this food source does not expose families to lead.

We believe that it is critical to protect the most vulnerable populations in our state, particularly those that access food via charitable organizations such as those listed in HB 2525, which includes the Department of Human Services, Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Youth Authority, low-income nutritional centers, public school nutritional centers, state hospitals and other charitable organizations. Patrons of food pantries and other low cost sources of food are not currently being adequately or consistently warned about the potential health risk of lead contamination in game meat.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of House Bill 2525 with amendment A3.

Sincerely,

Diana Wales, President  
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