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TO:	House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
FROM:	David Kracke, International Board Member of WildAid
DATE:	February 5, 2018
RE:	Comments in Favor of House Bill 4030

My name is David Kracke and I am a member of the international board of directors of the conservation organization WildAid. I am a co-author of House Bill 4046 signed into law in 2016, and I submit these comments in full support of House Bill 4030.

HB 4030 provides necessary guidance for the courts to consider when sentencing individuals convicted of poaching Oregon's wildlife. Without the judicial guidance provided in HB 4030, courts are, as we have recently experienced, reluctant to impose the civil penalties enumerated in Oregon Statute on criminal defendants. HB 4030 provides that necessary guidance allowing the court to impose fines in criminal cases consistent with the significant penalties found in Oregon's Civil Code.

It is the position of WildAid that this clarification is necessary not only to provide the courts with guidance, but also, and most importantly, to put significant teeth into Oregon's anti-poaching laws. Poaching of Oregon's wildlife continues to be a serious problem, and only with large monetary and forfeiture penalties will the poachers get the message that we will protect Oregon's wildlife in meaningful ways and punish those poachers who would violate the laws designed to protect that wildlife.

As a result, I urge you to pass this necessary bill and to continue Oregon's proud tradition of protecting its wildlife and natural resources.

Thank you,

David Kracke