



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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Chair Dembrow and Members of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

For the record, I am Al Elkins representing the Oregon Hunters Association (OHA). I am here today in support of HB 4030 A. This bill helps clarify the role of the courts and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in issuing fines and restitutions for the crime of unlawful taking or killing of wildlife.

Over the past few legislative sessions OHA has worked with many different groups and the legislature in increasing civil damage amounts. Our work came together in 2016 with the successful passage of HB 4046 which set restitution amounts involving the illegal taking of wildlife. However, after passage of this bill questions arose as to whether the courts had the authority to impose wildlife penalties.

To clarify that confusion HB 4030 A was brought forward and passed by the House. This bill helps clarify those questions by providing guidance to the courts and allowing the court to impose fines for the illegal killing of wildlife.

The Oregon Hunters Association as always taken a hard stand against those that take or kill wildlife illegally. We support HB 4030 A and ask that the committee do the same.

That concludes my testimony, I will be glad to answer any questions.
