

2-13-2019

Dear Senator Thatcher

I am writing as a concerned citizen in opposition to two recently proposed Senate Bills: SB439 and SB723

We already have laws and rules in abundance for conservation, enhancement, management, preservation and protection of wildlife that will ensure its future for all Oregonians to enjoy.

I don't see any sound, scientific based evidence being presented that show the current rules are restricting ODFW's management of the State's wildlife in a manner that would cause serious depletion of any indigenous species requiring new legislation.

These bill proposals are glaringly broad brushing, and Bill 723 is being pushed as an emergency: ..."This 2019 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist" ... Wow, what a red flag! The wording of the bill would even indicate that a family fishing trip, during which there is a competition, to catch the biggest fish suddenly becomes illegal.

For the State legislature to be considering these proposals is puzzling to say the least. One has to seriously question the justification and motive behind the proposals.

It is my understanding, that one of the bills, 723, was introduced after a group upset by a coyote hunt, that was legal, got sponsorship for this bill. But, the bill includes wording that restricts the use of defined "wildlife" (no mention of coyotes) for events of any sort!

Surely there is another agenda at work in the wording of these bills.

Use of the State's time and scarce resources can be better placed than to pursue authorization and the expensive regulation of such one sided proposals.

Freedom of choice allows our citizens to be individuals in how they live their lives. There are no laws I am aware of that tell people they are required to hunt. Whether they choose to do so should be up to them. Yet, increasingly there are attempts to take more of the rights of those who choose to hunt away.

Rules are necessary, but they must be fair, and realistic, protecting wildlife while still allowing the legal activity choices that are a part of so many Oregonians' lives.

SB439 and SB723 are one sided proposals that do not allow orderly and equitable use of wildlife by all our citizens. I urge you to table them in committee.

Sincerely,



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Note: I wish this letter to be included in the official records.