

Oregon Bird Hunters Association (OBHA)
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Subject: Senate Bill 723 and 439

Dear: Senator Bentz and Members of Oregon Senate Judiciary Committee

I wish to comment on SB 723 and that it be read into the record at your meeting February 28, 2019. I belong to a small association located in Grant County called Oregon Bird Hunters Association. We are a registered organization with the Oregon Corporate Division and Charitable Activities Section of the Oregon Department of Justice. We are also registered with the IRS and must file Form 990 each year

Our charter focuses on promoting bird hunting, hunter safety training and providing opportunities to hunt birds for the youth of Grant County. SB 723 without the amendments would for all practical purposes force us to stop operations. Each year we hold a Shoot-To-Retrieve competition for bird hunters who have trained gun dogs. The event is our primary means of raising money to help pay for additional pheasants to be released for the youth pheasant hunt sponsored by ODFW on the third weekend in September. Members of our organizations provide support to ODFW personnel on that weekend and will take those youth and their parents or guardian who do not own a dog over our dogs during the hunt.

I have been hunting pheasant, chukar and quail all over the country since I was 12 and trained several dogs. Now that I am 65 my hunting for wildland birds will soon come to an end especially for chukars. As long as hunting is a legal sport in Oregon, hunting in field trials, on game preserves or in competition events such as what our organization holds will be about the only way, I and many of my friends can continue to enjoy the sport I have been involved in for a half a century.

Field trails and the ability to use game birds raised in pens are the best way to train a gun dog for hunting and retrieving downed or wounded game. It takes time and money to find and train a good hunting dog and unfortunately their prime hunting lives are relatively short. Field trials and Shoot-To-Retrieve games help identify the dogs with best traits, instincts, and skills to use in breeding programs. A properly trained dog is best way to retrieve downed birds that would be otherwise lost by a hunter that does not have a dog. SB723 would essentially eliminate or limit established training techniques. When I train, I use as few birds as possible and only kill a few out of the many I use. Most I just let get away because the best trained dogs are those that are steady to flush and shot and do not chase a flushed bird. The only way to do this is to train the dog with many released birds. Practice makes perfect. The reason for this is so that the dog marks the bird where it goes down if shot and is not chasing flying away birds. The other reason is reduced chances of the dog being shot by inexperienced hunters especially the young. At the youth pheasant hunt we emphasize this repeatedly. No successful hunt is worth killing or hurting a hunting companion or one's dog.

While I understand and support the Humane Societies past efforts in stopping unethical and inhumane treatment of animals such as puppy mills and other in-humane treatment you see on TV. Their agenda along with other animal rights activists' actions all that point to the banning of sport hunting for any reason. SB-723 and SB-439 are examples of this and is just another step in this direction along with the many proposed anti-gun laws

While I do not participate in coyote hunting, coyotes have been targeted by various agricultural interests as doing damage to their operations. I know of certain instances where a government agency such as APHIS have used various methods at tax-payers expense to control coyote populations near agriculture operations. They even targeted coyotes on the Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge that were blamed for antelope predation on newborn kids. So, if there is damage what is wrong with holding an event that some one will pay to do it instead of hitting the tax payer up or the business for control.

Lastly over the last century or more, sportsman who have been paying ever increasing license fees, and taxes collected on equipment have done more for conservation efforts than any other group in the United States.

I urge you to table both measures and do not bring them to the floor.

Edward H Uebler

