

February 13, 2019

To: The Honorable Senator Floyd Prozanski, Chair

Subject: Requesting the SB 723 does not pass out of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

SB 723 does not take it to account the far-reaching results of this poorly written bill and the necessity to amend various Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS) to carry out the intention of SB 723.

If the bill were to be passed, it would make it illegal to do various types of events such as: Dog Field Trails, remove a management tool that could be used to control various invasive and nuisance species such as nutria, eastern grey squirrels, eastern fox squirrels and feral swine. The passing of this bill would also make it illegal for various cities and towns around Oregon the conduct Frog Jumping Contest as part of their traditional celebration or festivals.

I believe this definition of "Wildlife" in this bill, which can found in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) Division 57, would be trumped by the definition of "Wildlife" found in ORS 496.004 (19). If this is the case, than this would make fishing tournament illegal, which would drastically reduce economic revenue to many small towns around Oregon. The Department of Justice would need to make this determination about the definition of wildlife.

Subsection 4, which refers to taking of injured wildlife, to wildlife rehabilitators or veterinarian for treatment and release back into the wild, has several problems. Wildlife, which are allowed to be held and rehabilitated, for release is limited by various ORS and OAR. For example, coyotes cannot be held or rehabilitated according to ORS 497.3612 and ORS 610.045 and non-native wildlife such as nutria cannot be held or release according to Division 62 rules. Therefore, the only option is for these animals is to be euthanize; which participates of this type of events that this bill is attempting to prevent would already be carrying out as part of their event.

Please, consider my letter in your deliberation and I would urge the committee **not to pass SB 723** to the Senate floor.

Sincerely,



James Richard
Keizer, OR