



# OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

P.O. Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501 • (541) 772-7313

[oha@ccountry.net](mailto:oha@ccountry.net) • [oregonhunters.org](http://oregonhunters.org)

## Testimony in Support of HB 3163

Chair Witt and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources:

For the record I am Al Elkins representing the Oregon Hunters Association (OHA). OHA is in support of HB 3163, the change in residency requirements for purposes of licenses, tags and permit related to wildlife.

This bill has history. The bill is the result of an “anti-poaching” workgroup that consisted of Senator Johnson, Rep. Witt, Rep. Sprenger, along with representatives from ODFW, OSP and OHA. Through discussions with law enforcement the group discovered that prosecuting offenders with dual state residencies had become a concern of Oregon District Attorneys and they had become reluctant to prosecute offenders that fit into the dual state category.

As a result of this discussion, OHA, ODFW, OSP and representatives from the Department of Justice crafted the bill you have before you today HB 3163.

This bill has been through the legislative process once before. During the 2020 Legislative Session it was known as HB 4052. During the 2020 Session the bill passed through the House and Senate substantive committees and was on the desk of the Senate President upon adjournment. The House Chamber floor vote on the bill on 2/11/20 was 59 ayes with 1 excused.

What the bill does to help Oregon District Attorneys prosecute wildlife offenders is amend the definition of residency for the purposes of licenses, tags, and permits related to wildlife. The new language describes that a resident is a person who has physically resided in Oregon for not less than six consecutive months immediately prior to the date of making application for a license, tag, or permit issued by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission. It further defines a resident as not someone who merely owns real property or pays property taxes in this state; or who has resident privileges in another state or county for any purpose.

HB 3163 is just one more step helping to prosecute those that break the wildlife laws in Oregon.

OHA asks you to support HB 3163.

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