

Submitter: Matthew Sprague
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR5

Dear Legislative Representatives:

I support this bill as it is reflective of the importance of the past and future for those who experience these activities as a normal part of their lives. I learned hunting, fishing and gathering from my father and who in turn learned from his and it goes much further back in history. Many of the women in our family history have or do the same types of activities and enjoy as much or more than the boys. Now I'm teaching my child the skills to obtain food, experience nature and learn valuable information about his surroundings that frankly are not experienced by enough people. My wife who doesn't hunt enjoys hunting with me and gathering during that time we are in the field. What is learned by these activities isn't primarily that you caught a fish, were successful on a deer hunt or harvested a bounty of mushrooms. Every experience in the outdoors while taking an approach towards a goal includes learning and experiencing things unrelated to that goal but helpful in understanding your surroundings. I know that many people have issues with harvesting (primarily animals) and that is okay. However, to expect everyone to have the same feelings about everything in life would not be an inclusive approach that is so paramount in life and politics today. Being able to experience nature in a different way than found in other outdoor activities is critical and important. Every type of outdoor activity does not result in the same experiences because the approaches are completely different. I'm also a back packer and enjoy the outdoors in that way but I miss so much of nature with that approach as compared to being on high alert, quiet and in tune with what is around me when hunting. Being able to obtain non farmed, natural, healthy and wild products such as fish, venison, elk, birds, mushrooms, nettles, fiddlehead ferns, etc., is important to many Oregonians. These activities provide alternatives to industrial farming and ranching and being able to continue this in perpetuity with proper overall management is extremely important.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Matt S.