

OPPOSE H.J.R. 5

1. **HJR 5 deprives voters of the right to have a say on wildlife management.** This measure would create a constitutional right to hunt, trap, and fish, subject to laws created by the Legislative Assembly and rules adopted by state agencies. What's missing? The voters of Oregon! If this measure is adopted, the right to vote on wildlife management would be extinguished.
2. **Voters value the right to be heard on wildlife management.** In 1994, the voters passed Measure 18, a law that protects bears and cougars from abusive and unsporting hunting methods. Two years later, voters overwhelmingly rejected Measure 34, which would have repealed Measure 18. In 2016, Oregon voters voted by broad margins to ban the trafficking of the parts and products from the world's most iconic and imperiled wild species. Taken together, these votes demonstrates that the voters of Oregon value the right to vote on wildlife measures, and don't want their choices overturned.
3. **HJR 5 would elevate hunting, trapping, and fishing above other wildlife activities.** It is wrong to suggest that the right to hunt and trap wildlife for sport is somehow a greater right than nonconsumptive uses, such as birdwatching. If anything, all forms of enjoying wildlife should be on equal footing, and no one interest group (such as trappers and trophy hunters) should be given primacy over others.
4. **Hunting, trapping and fishing is a privilege, not a right.** The opportunity to engage in hunting, trapping, and fishing in Oregon exists by virtue of state statutes, not the Oregon Constitution. This privilege is extended by a conditional license to engage in these activities, and that license can be suspended or revoked if people break the applicable laws. Creating a constitutional right to engage in these activities would raise questions about the legality of hunting licenses and permits, and might encourage poachers to raise their "constitutional rights" as a defense.

For the foregoing reasons, we urge the Committee to vote NO on HJR 5.

Scott Beckstead
Director of Campaigns
Animal Wellness Action/Center for a Humane Economy
541-530-3460
sbeckstead@centerforahumaneconomy.org