



February 1, 2023

House Committee on Rules
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem Oregon 97301

RE: House Joint Resolution 5

Position: **SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Fahey and Members of the House Committee on Rules,

On behalf of Delta Waterfowl and our members in Oregon, I write today to express support in House Joint Resolution 5, legislation that seeks to propose an amendment to the Oregon Constitution to declare the "constitutional right to fish, hunt or harvest wildlife or gather wild foods, subject to certain legal restrictions."

For some background, Delta Waterfowl is a leading conservation group founded at the famed Delta Marsh in Manitoba, with its United States Headquarters in Bismarck, North Dakota. We work to produce ducks through intensive management programs and conservation of breeding duck habitat. Delta conducts vital waterfowl research, and promotes and protects the continuing tradition of waterfowl hunting in North America.

HJR5 seeks to ensure that current and future generations of Oregonians have the ability to legally fish, hunt, harvest, and gather to sustain themselves and their families while protecting Oregon sportsmen and women from an outright ban on the ability to hunt, fish and provide for their family.

Importantly, HJR 5 does not alter the wildlife conservation and management goals and priorities set out by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife. In fact, dozens of other states around the country already have constitutional protections for sportsmen and women codified into law. At a time when the rights of hunters are constantly under attack, ensuring the right to hunt has never been more important.

It is important to stress, this legislation does NOT endanger private property rights in any way, nor does it condone the illegal taking of fish and wildlife. It simply protects the legal taking of wildlife. Hunting laws and regulations would still be subject to reasonable legislation passed by the legislature or rules promulgated by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

HJR5 is a commonsense approach to protecting the rights of sportsmen and women who have come under attack in Oregon and places all across the country in recent years. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Cyrus Hunter Baird
Senior Director of Government Affairs
Delta Waterfowl Foundation