



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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February 1, 2023

House Committee on Rules
Re: HJR 5

Chair Fahey, Vice-chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) represents 10,000 sportsmen and women from 26 chapters around the state. Our members utilize fishing, hunting, harvesting, and gathering to supplement their food sources and provide natural, healthy foods for their families. On behalf of these members, I ask your support for HJR 5 with the -1 amendment.

HJR 5 -1 would refer the constitutional protection to fish, hunt, harvest, and gather to the people of Oregon on the 2024 ballot. We believe Oregonians, who have long prioritized a strong connection with their food sources, should have the ability to vote this type of protection into the state constitution. The ability of Oregonians to supplement their diets with wild and foraged foods is an integral part of our self-reliant heritage.

HJR 5 -1 seeks to protect the ability of Oregonians to fish, hunt, harvest, and gather from an outright ban against those activities. It does not place those activities above other uses or enjoyment of Oregon's natural resources, nor does it circumvent wildlife management, private and public property rights, or to endanger our flora and fauna populations. As such, distinct boundaries were included within the language of the bill. To be clear:

- With the -1 amendment, the bill does not circumvent the voters of Oregon in the process of wildlife regulation and management. With this amendment, the people of the State are clearly listed within the governance process.
- HJR 5 -1 does not alter Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife's goals, focuses, or priorities for wildlife conservation and management. No provision within HJR 5 -1 directs the agency to change the focus of wildlife conservation or species management; the agency's mission remains unchanged in statute, rule, and practice. Twenty-three states have similar constitutional protections with no alteration of their conservation and management practices.
- HJR 5 -1 does not condone poaching or illegal harvest of any plant or animal. There are no added provisions, both in the bill language or the legal context, that would allow an individual to take or harvest plants or animal outside of the legally regulated seasons.
- Likewise, HJR 5 -1 does not abrogate private and public property rights. This is specifically stated in the bill language.

Currently, an initiative petition is seeking to criminalize all legal fishing and hunting in Oregon. This type of complete ban on the activities we utilize to supplement our diets with naturally sourced foods is exactly what HJR 5 -1 would protect Oregonians from.

Recent years have shown us how tenuous the national food network is, marred by Inflation and global shortages. Providing healthy, natural foods to our families has never been more important to Oregonians.

HJR 5 -1 protects Oregonians' ability to provide our families with organic, healthy foods independent of the national food network while allowing for the necessary regulations that ensure sound conservation of our resources.

Oregon Hunters Association, on behalf of our membership, urge your support for HJR 5 -1.

Thank you,

Amy Patrick
OHA Policy Director