

Submitter: Karl Findling  
On Behalf Of: Business--Oregon Pack Works  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HJR5

February 2, 2023

Oregon House of Representatives

900 Court St.

Salem, Ore 97301

RE: House Joint Resolution 5—Right to Hunt, fish, Harvest and Gather

Chair Fahey, Vice-chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, Members of the Committee, for the record my name is Karl J. Findling, from Bend.

I am a life-long Oregonian, having lived in Eastern and Central Oregon, for most of my life. I have hunted, fished and gathered for the majority of my life. Whether scouring the Cascade foothills for mushrooms, or fishing and hunting every wild region of Oregon, I'm here in my support of HJR-5.

Oregonians have long had a strong interest in sourcing our own foods, including wild and foraged foods. Self-reliant sourcing of wild foods is an integral part of Oregon's heritage.

- Current initiatives seek to prohibit Oregonian's ability to provide for their family in the manner they choose, seeking to strip away the self-sufficiency Oregonians have to source their food in a natural and healthy manner.
- Over the last three years, the nation has weathered food shortages driven by both the pandemic and natural disasters. Currently, we have only to look at the rising price of eggs to underscore the tenuousness of the national food network.
- Protecting Oregonians' ability to provide healthy, natural food sources for our families decreases our dependency on a food network that is both reactionary to inflation and subject to global shortages.
- 23 states have passed similar Constitutional protections for the right to fish and hunt.
- Hunters, Anglers and Gatherers, are a part of Oregon's larger Outdoor Recreation Contributors. In 2019, outdoor recreationists spent \$15.6 Billion in Oregon<sup>1</sup>.
- Hunters and Anglers provide the state with tens of millions of tax dollars annually for management for fish and wildlife--Nearly the lone source for such management since 1937.
- In 2020, 206,000 Oregon hunters, spent \$306 Million on hunting related purchases, a \$448 Million Multiplier effect, supporting 3,700 jobs, \$144 Million in

Salaries and Wages, \$209 Million to the GDP, \$16 Million in State and Local taxes, and \$32 Million in federal taxes<sup>2</sup>.

- Hunters' spending in 2018 generated more than \$185 Million per day for the U.S. economy<sup>3</sup>.

Please consider my testimony and similar testimony from dozens of others, seeking passage of a healthy and safe food gathering rights bill.

1. Earth Economics, 2021, Oregon's Outdoor Recreation Economy:  
<https://www.eartheconomics.org/all-publications/2020/outdoor-recreation-oregon>
2. Sportsmensalliance.Org
3. 2018, National Shooting Sports Foundation, Hunting in America: An Economic Force for Conservation-Report.

Sincerely,

Karl J. Findling

Owner,  
Oregon Pack Works  
Bend, Oregon