



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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Supplemental Testimony in support of HJR 5 -1

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

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with your committee regarding HJR 5 -1. I would like to add a few points regarding the intent of HJR 5 -1 and a some comments that were made in opposition.

First, let me reiterate that we are not attempting to place the activities of fishing, hunting, harvesting and gathering, above other ways that Oregonians enjoy wildlife. Too often there is an attempt to marginalize conservation and users of nature as “consumptive vs non-consumptive”. This is a false narrative and seeks to vilify Oregonians who chose to participate in the activities of fishing, hunting, or other take of wildlife. I would posit that all Oregonians are “consumptive” users of nature, whether that person is legally harvesting an animal or driving down a highway that bisects important wildlife migration corridors.

Our request, to let Oregonians have a voice in protecting the ability to fish, hunt, harvest and gather, is before you because of a real threat to those activities. The initiative petition currently seeking the 2024 ballot would criminalize all legal fishing, hunting, trapping, wildlife management activities, teaching and research with animals, even the ability to trap pest and vermin. If there were a similar initiative seeking to end bird watching, hiking, or mountain biking, we would be standing with those user groups to defend their ability to partake in Oregon's wild spaces in the manner they so choose.

Additionally, the statement that fishing and hunting are not done primarily to feed families is patently false and a grave misrepresentation of the intent of sportsmen and women in Oregon. Not only do we strive to add healthy, optimal protein to our family's diets, we do so with a great respect for the animal through ethics and fair-chase. In addition, it is illegal to waste the meat of a game animal, bird, or fish. ORS 498.042 (3) states: “No person shall waste any edible portion of any game mammal, game bird or game fish or the pelt of any fur-bearing mammal.”

And finally, the number of anglers and hunters in Oregon is not decreasing. On the contrary, the number of license-holders in the state has increased tremendously since 2020, driven in part by the food shortages of the pandemic. Nearly one million Oregonians are licensed to fish and hunt in the state.

Thank you for your time,
Amy Patrick
OHA Policy Director