

Submitter: Kylee Simonis
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB3390

I strongly oppose HB3390, my name is Kylee Simonis. I've always been an avid outdoorsman and trapper. My family has been doing so since my great great grandparents settled in North Powder, Oregon in the 1870s. People trap for different reasons, some its heritage, livestock protection, depredation, clothing, disease, to relocate animals, and to control animal populations to name just a few.

Trapping for myself has been a way of life. I feel as if I'm a guardian of the land. I am at harmony with our wildlife in Oregon. I can identify every sound, interpret every sign, every movement. My happiness has a lot to do with how I relate to the land around me. I don't just admire it, im part of it. People should've never lost contact with nature. We need to share with the environment if humankind is to survive. We need to live with nature, not against it.

I have to hunt and and trap, its my livelihood. But it's more then that too. I don't think any species is necessarily harmful to nature. I'm convinced we have a role to play. We also help maintain the balance of the ecosystem as they say. As long as we take only what we need, just like animals do. Take away, but don't endanger, that's the trappers motto.

The problem today is that some animal populations are decreasing. Such as our deer herds in Oregon. Thats partially because there's fewer and fewer trappers every year. That might seem like a contradiction, but without us, the wildlife wouldn't do as well. Trappers help control populations by taking small numbers of animals from the land. They eliminate weaker individuals and prevent predators from multiplying at the expense of others, which encourages growth. If HB3390 were to pass, there would be even less trappers in our state, if we weren't allowed to sale fur.

The days of barbaric traps are a thing of the past as well. Anyone that says otherwise have zero experience with them. I would encourage anyone to have a conversation with a trapper, look at the devices used today, or ask to go with someone on their trapline to better understand. Our land traps (footholds) are restraining devices. So we can humanely let non-target animals go. Over the past several years, I've turned several wolves loose in our state. With the assistance of ODFW or by myself, with no injuries to them. Trapping is how ODFW or USDA wild services ethically targets certain species to remove, study, collar or transport animals.

In closing, passing HB3390 would be detrimental to local businesses, trappers, outdoorsman, the economy and a way of life for Oregonians. Thank you for your time and consideration.