



Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation  
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March 18, 2025

**House Committee on Judiciary.**

**RE: HB 3075 – Modifies the firearm permit provisions of Ballot Measure 114 (2022).**

This letter is to share thoughts from the Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation (OR WSF) related to HB 3075.

HB 3075 makes changes to the gun permit and transfer process. The Act goes into effect when the Governor signs it. Modifies the firearm permit provisions of Ballot Measure 114 (2022). Specifies where a person may apply for a permit to purchase a firearm and adds an eligibility requirement. Provides that information obtained during the application process and during the criminal background check and maintained within the database of permit holders is exempt from disclosure as a public record. Extends the time, from 30 to 60 days from receipt of the application, by which a permit agent must issue a permit to a qualified applicant or mail reasons for a denial in writing to the applicant. Increases the maximum fee that may be charged for an initial application for and renewal of a permit. Specifies the portion of the fee payable to the Department of State Police for conducting a criminal background check. Establishes alternatives to a firearms training course or class that may be used to satisfy the requirement of proof of completion of a firearm safety course for the permit. Provides that permits are not required for firearm transfers until July 1, 2026. Establishes a temporary exception to the permit requirement for the transfer of certain firearms by July 1, 2028. Establishes a permanent exception to the permit requirement for active-duty law enforcement and military. Modifies the affirmative defense language for the large capacity magazine provisions of Ballot Measure 114 (2022). Provides that a challenge to legality of the Act must be commenced in the Circuit Court for Marion County. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

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"Putting Wild Sheep on the Mountain"  
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The purpose of the Oregon Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation (OR WSF) is to promote and enhance populations of bighorn sheep (BHS) and Rocky Mountain goats. OR WSF fund initiatives, partnerships and projects throughout the State of Oregon and beyond to accomplish our purpose and mission. We support scientific solutions to resource management challenges, and we invest in disease research, BHS transplants, habitat management, population management, predator management, and conservation education. We want to ensure that BHS populations and their habitats are effectively managed, accessible, utilized and supported by interested stakeholders. OR WSF members are sportsmen and women, recreational shooters, and conservationists. Members support hunting as a wildlife conservation and management tool.

We participate in efforts across Oregon to promote hunting and sustainable-use conservation. OR WSF opposed Measure 114 as part of a coalition of conservation organizations. As hunter conservationists our organization and members purchase, own, and use firearms as a necessary element of their activities. The proposed new permit requirement will significantly damage members' interests because it will be much more difficult to obtain firearms for use in lawful, regulated hunting. Hunting tradition and the ability to introduce youth and new hunters to this tradition will also suffer.

The new permit restriction on firearm purchases is even more problematic because it diminishes the future of lawful hunting. Creating an onerous new process for firearm purchases will drive away new hunters and sport shooters. It will also prevent young people from engaging in these activities because they cannot obtain the proper tools.

In addition, restrictions in Measure 114 will reduce firearm, firearm accessories, and ammunition purchases in Oregon. They are also likely to reduce participation in hunting and recreational shooting. These reductions will have deleterious effects on the conservation of wildlife and habitat in the State.

Oregon's hunters and recreational shooters contribute tens of millions of dollars for conservation efforts under the Pittman-Robertson Act (PR). The PR imposes an 11% excise tax on every purchase of firearms, ammunition, and hunting equipment. Under the Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) distributes excise tax revenues based on a formula using the state's land and water area and the number of paid recreational hunting and fishing license holders in the state. Grant funds are used for projects to restore, conserve, manage, and enhance wild birds and mammals and their habitats.

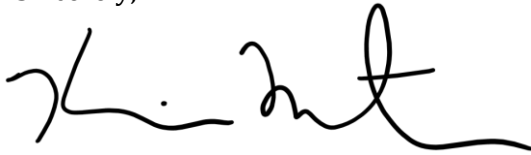
In 2023, the Service distributed a record \$1.6 billion in PR and related funds, including over \$28 million in wildlife restoration and hunter education grants to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). Reducing firearm sales and making it more difficult to hunt (thus potentially cutting license sales) will decrease this critical funding for the ODFW and harm Oregon's wildlife, habitat, and conservation efforts because there will have fewer resources available to invest in management.

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Fewer hunters will also negatively impact ODFW's wildlife management efforts. In addition to the direct reduction of funds available to ODFW for wildlife management programs caused by a reduction in hunting licenses sold, hunting is used in Oregon as a cost-effective and necessary wildlife management tool. For abundant or increasing populations of many species, such as deer and black bear, hunting is the only practical or available tool for managing population numbers. Forcing a decline in hunter participation will reduce ODFW's ability to rely on hunters to manage wildlife populations, thus requiring greater direct management and expenditure of resources by ODFW.

Thank you for considering our testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Martin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin Martin  
President, OR WSF

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