

Submitter: Cameron Coval

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB1590

To: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
SUBJECT: Support SB 1590

Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, Vice-Chair McDonald, and members of the committee,

For the record my name is Cameron Coval and I live in Gresham. I am a hunter and angler writing to you in strong support of SB 1590.

Hunting, fishing, and gathering wild food are central to my life and well-being. It's how I feed my family, friends, and community; how I reconnect with the natural world; and how I regain perspective on what is really important and what it is to be human.

The vastness of Oregon's public lands, and the access and proximity that I have to those lands, is what makes me so proud to call Oregon home. Gresham may not be the first place that comes to mind when you think about proximity or access to public lands, but consider that I can clock out from work, drive 10 minutes east, and set foot on Mt Hood National Forest lands. These lands are where I caught my first steelhead, tagged my first bull elk, and shot my first grouse, all within an hour of my home. These are experiences that I cherish on lands that I love.

Unfortunately, as we all saw last summer, there are powerful voices that want to sell off public lands, and that have specifically targeted areas around Mount Hood. Such attempts constitute a direct threat to me and my way of life.

With SB 1590, Oregon lawmakers can take proactive steps—an ounce of prevention—to protect the lands that belong to all of us, and to keep it that way, by prohibiting Oregon's public bodies from using state or local resources to assist the federal government in selling certain federal public lands to private parties. In doing so, lawmakers will also be protecting the freedoms and opportunities that I hold dear.

Public lands are literally common ground for Americans of all backgrounds and political persuasions. Right now Americans desperately need common ground. This is not a partisan issue. Threats to our public lands and the freedoms we enjoy on them could come from any side of the political spectrum. Perhaps the current administration will try to repeat last year's attempts to sell off public lands. Or perhaps a future administration, one motivated by a desire to eliminate hunting and fishing

opportunities, will attempt to do the same. In either case, SB 1590 would safeguard our public lands against the threat of privatization, and ensure access and opportunity for Oregon's hunters and anglers for generations to come.

I urge your support of SB 1590.

Sincerely,

Cameron Coval