

February 13, 2019

Dear Senator Heard

I am writing to you about Senate Bill 723. I request that you make this letter part of the record.

My Name is Steve Souder. I am a Native Oregonian, a Vietnam era Veteran, husband, Father, Taxpayer and voter.

I am retired & live in Douglas County. I am not an activist, but I am willing to stand up for my rights when someone is trying to change or create laws that will affect what my wife and I do as recreation and our sport.

We have two Labrador Retrievers, we raise, train, and love our dogs. We participate in AKC (American Kennel Club) Hunt Tests and Field trials.

Senate Bill 723 lumps all activities that  
(i) over

(2)

Take wildlife into the same category whether it is a ODFW permitted and licensed activity or not. We use pen raised and privately owned birds in our sport. ODFW regards pen raised birds as "wild life". But only after they are released. A release permit is required for both training & Tests. A License (hunting license with bird endorsements) is required for taking because ODFW defines hunting as "taking" therefore a license is required.

ORS 498.106 Describes what we do as a sport and Authorizes ODFW To give permission to hold events and train our hunting dogs.

Senate Bill 723 would make our sport unlawful because we give out ribbons for qualification. IT states we could be imprisoned for a year and Fined \$6,250<sup>00</sup> for participating in a sport that has been a national pastime for nearly 100 years.

3.

This last year 2018 Two National Events took place in Douglas County. The National Amature and the Master National. It was not easy to attract National Events to the area.

The Economic Benefit (as reported) to Douglas County and Oregon was conservatively Six Million Dollars. Over 100 Dogs participated in the Amateur and over 600 Dogs in the Master National. People came from all over the U.S.

What we do for a sport is a regulated & a Lawful Activity.

SB723 came about because of Coyote hunting But it is Not mentioned in the Bill.

"SB723 is a Bad Law"

Please do not let it out of committee.

Respectfully  
Steve Souder.

