



HB 3055 – HB 3087 – HB 3088

**Oregon Fish and Wildlife Violations and Penalties
David Moskowitz, Executive Director
April 1, 2019**

Dear Honorable Chair Brad Witt and members of the Committee:

The Conservation Angler supports HB 3055, HB 3087 and HB 3088, which addresses how Oregon addresses responding to wildlife violations with enhanced penalties, fines and outreach.

TCA appreciates Natural Resource committee's efforts to address Oregon's poaching problem and would like to express our support for HB 3035, HB 3087 and HB 3088 which together, increases the consequences for violations for certain wildlife offenses, and increases public awareness of these efforts.

TCA is one of many of Oregon's conservation organizations that is committed to ending illegal wildlife trafficking and poaching in Oregon.

For species that are not monitored as some game species are, but which are susceptible to poaching because of their illegal-market value, commercial or retail value or from a history of harm and harassment, ODFW is missing critical information on illegal killings and its impact on the population of any individual species. For some threatened and endangered species, illegal taking of even one or two individuals can put the population at risk. HB 3035 is an important measure addressing the growing issue of poaching in our state. Poaching has serious consequences for individual animals, populations of species, and on the entire ecosystem.

There needs to be stronger accountability and consequences for wildlife poaching. HB 3055 treats illegal wildlife taking without a culpable state as a Class A misdemeanor, and illegal wildlife taking with a culpable mental state as a Class C felony.

TCA also supports including even an instance where a single illegal take (with culpable mental state) of a specific vulnerable species would result in a felony. Oregon must send a clear message that it is prioritizing conservation of its natural resources and is promoting ethical hunting so that wildlife can thrive now and in the future.

Oregon must increase the consequences for and awareness of poaching across the board.

That is why The Conservation Angler supports all three of these bills.

Please do pass HB 3055

Please do pass HB 3087

Please do pass HB 3088.

These legislative measures are urgently needed.

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