February 5, 2020

<div align="center">Testimony before Oregon Senate Veterans Committee</div>

Subject: Senate Bill 1543 - Issuance of group sportspac license to qualifying facility or program

Chair Olsen and members of the committee:

My name is David Wiley, I live in Sublimity, Oregon. I am representing the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, of which I am a member. And, I am a veteran of the US Army who was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds sustained in combat.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation does not support Senate Bill 1543 as introduced for the following reasons:

1. The Introduced language of the bill goes way beyond the Intent of the Legislative Concept 55 - Veterans Fishing Program from which It was derived by including hunting and shellfish licenses, and additional non-veteran categories eligible for free licenses and tags.
2. Because directs the program is without cost to the recipient organization it is an unfunded mandate that that will fall upon the licensed sportsmen to fund.
3. There would be negative fiscal impacts due to the large size of the non-veteran eligibility.
4. From an administrative, management and enforcement standpoint such a program would likely be expensive to administer.

Within current Oregon Law veterans with disabilities and terminally Ill children can receive controlled hunt tags (ORS 496.146). Also Disabled Veterans can receive free hunting, fishing and shellfish licenses. Veterans In hospital and domiciliary care can receive angling and shell fishing licenses (ORS 497.162) as can persons in state care.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation recommends Senate Bill 1543 be scaled back to the original intent of LC 55 which was make a minor change to ORS 497.162 to include non-profit organizations which takes veterans fishing so the veteran could receive a free angling or shellfish license. All references to hunting license and tags should be removed from the bill language as current law already provides recognition to disabled veterans.

Questions?

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

VOLUNTEER