

My name is Elise Wolf. I live in Sisters, Oregon

My comments are in opposition to the passage of HB 3187.

First, I grew up hunting and fishing in Alaska. I have also sat on a Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee.

I do not think the taxpayer should be funding a marketing campaign for just one kind of wildlife use.

Our culture is changing, that is true.

Killing is no longer the primary way in which people want to interface with our wildlife.

And wildlife killing is certainly not the only way our rural communities can economically benefit from wildlife.

In the 2016 US Fish and Wildlife Hunting, Fishing, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation survey

- 35 million people said they fished
- 11 million people said they hunted

Notably – 75 million said they watched wildlife.

This is not a marketing issue, this reflects massive cultural changes.

Today, we have more people buying bird feeders than hunting, and there is a reason for that.

Culturally we have as a nation been taught the value of living wild animals – decades of nature shows have helped move us along to a more compassionate and empathetic relationship with animals.

In 1981, I was hunting ducks. Today, I am rehabilitating them. I'm not alone, there's a lot of retired hunters here who actively feed birds and bring them to me for care when injured.

What we need is a wildlife council made of people who represent ALL Oregonians and ALL voices who want a connection with nature.

That would include conservationists, bird watchers, and wildlife advocates, like myself.

A council like this would reach out and help rural communities find ways to bring people to their regions, spend money in different ways.

We can do this. We can move forward.

There is virtually no room on such a council for wildlife control representatives – that is a whole different subject and muddies the water.

IN sum, scrap this clearly one-sided proposal, and get an inclusive one going.

Oh, and increase the OR Dept of Fish and Wildlife's budget and change their goals to reflect today's reality. Fund them to help manage ALL wildlife, for ALL Oregonians.

Thank you.

Elise Wolf
Sisters, Oregon