

Submitter: John Raasch  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HJR5

Hi,

I'm writing in strong support of HJR5. I'm a native Oregonian and the ability to fish, hunt and gather wild foods is critically important to me. As I write this, I am preparing an elk roast for my family's dinner tonight.

Properly regulated hunting and fishing are some of the most natural, positive and "human" experiences we can have. The ability to gather food from the wild in the same manner our ancestors did provided a critical link to the ecosystems and cultural traditions that support us all. The close connection to nature and the respect for wildlife and their habitats makes us all better stewards of these incredibly important resources and the landscape and clean water that they depend on.

Each year I eagerly anticipate the return of winter steelhead, fall chinook fishing with family and old friends in the estuaries and fall hunting trips. I feel more connected with the earth and nature when I watch the dawn break on a windy ridge or a calm estuary than I do at any other times. Ethical sport fishing and hunting are among the most pure ways of obtaining food that exist. Healthy organic meats and fish sustain us along with providing a critical connection to nature. People that are heavily vested in healthy populations of fish and wildlife are strong conservationists. Oregon has a long and proud history of sustainable fishing and hunting that deserves to be permanently protected for future generations.

My children love to fish and hunt and we have wonderful memories of first fish, hunting camp together, etc. These experiences have helped to build an appreciation and respect for life and nature with my kids. I look forward to the day that I can introduce my grandkids to the joys and rewards of ethical hunting and fishing.

Please support permanently protecting these precious rights.

Best,  
John