

Submitter: Shauna Sherick
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR5

Hello,

I'm a fourth generation Oregon resident and farmer residing in Yamhill County, Oregon. I am submitting my opposition to HJR 5, the proposed Oregon Constitutional amendment that would give special rights and privileges to hunters over that of all citizens that reside in Oregon and those that care about preserving our state's wildlife and public safety. With Oregon's ever dwindling wildlife habitat and protection of threatened animal species including those in Yamhill County, the general population in Oregon are taking notice and demanding to become more involved in the process of how our wildlife is treated and managed which has been a right all along through the voting process. If HJR 5 passes, this right of Oregon's citizens will be taken away. Regardless of one's personal views on hunting, all citizens of Oregon and not just a few, should have a say, and be allowed to vote on how our wildlife is treated and managed, whether hunting should be allowed in the area where they live, what laws should be added or amended, and that those important decisions not left to those who have an interest in hunting. The "harvesting" of our state's wildlife and natural resources should be looked at as a privilege and not a right as far as Oregon's wildlife is concerned. Here in Yamhill County which is one of the fastest developing rural counties Oregon, hunter vs residential family conflicts are also on the increase as I've seen in my own area neighborhood as I live directly across from a wetlands where hunting is allowed. Once strictly open farmland and natural areas regularly used by hunters, is now becoming more developed with family housing and seeing an increase in tourists visiting new local vineyards where hunting is putting families, pets, cherished wildlife on private lands, and visiting tourists at risk of hunting accidents which will happen sooner than later if the activity of hunting is given its own constitutional right.

Thank you