



Representative Bobby Levy

Serving Umatilla, Union & Wallowa Counties

Chair Fahey, Vice Chair Breese-Iverson, Vice Chair Kropf, and other members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Bobby Levy, state representative for House District 58. I am testifying today in support of House Joint Resolution 5.

Coming from a hunting and fishing background myself, I have experienced first-hand the benefits to Oregonians from every walk of life. It is imperative to retain this right for all Beaver State residents.

Hunting has been integral in North America dating back to the arrival of indigenous peoples. 23 states currently recognize this right under constitutions and statute. Until recently, the right to hunt, fish, and harvest wildlife in Oregon was assumed. Hunting and fishing must be retained as a vital part of preserving nature, spurring rural economic activity, and conserving animal populations in tandem with State government.

Hunters and fishers gain a greater understanding and respect for the natural world as they interact with wildlife. Hunting and fishing trips almost always involve a stop at local stores, taverns, and restaurants in small towns, often building relationships between urban hunters and fishers with their rural neighbors. These activities invite regular Oregonians into the process of controlling both game and predator populations so that natural resources are not depleted. State agencies also receive firsthand help and support from community members on the ground who assist with wildlife conservation and data collection.

HJR 5 is a vital recognition of a way of life that has sustained Oregon's inhabitants for thousands of years. Supporting our hunters and fishers by enshrining their rights in the Constitution validates their service to Oregon's environment. The Committee's support for this bill will help ensure that hunters and fishers continue to support our State's collective work to protect natural resources.

Best,
Rep. Bobby Levy, HD 58

