

February 2, 2023

Oregon House of Representatives
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: House Joint Resolution 5 - Right to Fish, Hunt, Harvest and Gather

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf, Members of the House Committee on Rules:

On behalf of the many Oregonians who provide their families with foods from wild and foraged sources, we request the House Committee on Rules pass House Joint Resolution 5 (HJR 5) which would put forth to the citizens of the state a constitutional right to fish, hunt, harvest, and gather.

Oregon residents have historically had a strong interest in sourcing our own foods, including wild and foraged foods. Our ability to enjoy and thrive from the abundance of our state's natural foods is an integral part of Oregonians' self-reliant heritage.

Over the last three years, the nation has weathered food shortages driven by both the pandemic and natural disasters. Currently, we have only to look at the rising price of eggs to underscore the tenuousness of the national food network. Protecting Oregonians' ability to provide healthy, natural food sources for our families decreases our dependency on a food network that is both reactionary to inflation and subject to global shortages.

In addition to the national pressures effecting food security, there is a state initiative seeking to prohibit Oregonians' ability to provide for their family in the manner they choose, attempting to strip away the self-sufficiency Oregonians have to source their food in a natural and healthy manner.

HJR 5 does not promote poaching or illegal harvest of plants or animals. The resolution does not protect fishing, hunting, harvesting or gathering outside of the approved regulations adopted by the Legislative Assembly, the citizens of Oregon, and the state agencies. A constitutional right provides the protection and assurance that these activities cannot be banned in full, however, they may still be regulated by the appropriate entities.

Likewise, HJR 5 does not endanger private and public property rights. Trespass laws and regulations would not be affected by the protections granted through HJR 5.

Most importantly, HJR 5 would not alter the conservation and management goals of the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife. In fact, 23 states have a similar protection for the right to fish and hunt with no shift in their state agency's priorities for wildlife conservation. Sound, science-based conservation of fish, wildlife, and habitat benefit all Oregonians.

HJR 5 protects Oregonians' ability to provide our families with organic, healthy foods independent of the national food network while allowing for the necessary regulations that ensure sound conservation of our resources.

On behalf of the hundreds of thousands of sportsmen and women in Oregon, whose interests our organizations represent, we urge your support of HJR 5

Amy Patrick
Oregon Hunters Association

Keely Hopkins
Congressional Sportsmen Foundation

Charles Whitwam
Howl for Wildlife

Cyrus Baird
Delta Waterfowl

Matt Little
Ducks Unlimited

Michael O'Casey
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

Jason Wisniewski
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Walter Chuck
Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation

Leonard Krug
Oregon Anglers Alliance

Chris Henry
National Wild Turkey Federation

Bill Richardson
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Chris Tymeson
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Ken Hand
Advocates fo Sustainable Wildlife Populations

Doug Nichol
Oregon Trappers Association

Ian Isaacson
Oregon Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

Kerry Spurgin
Oregon State Shooting Association
Oregon Association of Shooting Ranges