

Submitter: Charles Whitwam
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR5

Oregon has long been known as a state with bountiful opportunities for people to source their own food. It is an immense source of pride for all who venture into the natural world and return with food for their families' tables. The past three years of pandemic and natural disasters have shown us how quickly supply chains and food sources can be depleted. The harvests from locally foraged foods continue to fill those nutritional gaps in a time when they are greatly needed.

HJR 5 ensures that current and future generations of Oregonians have the right to fish, hunt, harvest, and gather food as previous generations have done. It will prevent an outright ban on these activities and the ability to remain self-sufficient in procuring food. It continues to allow for the reasonable regulation of harvesting natural resources by the Legislative Assembly, state agencies, and citizens of Oregon.

HJR 5 does not force wildlife conservation and management goals or priorities on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. It will not infringe on private or public property rights; trespassing is not authorized, permitted, or condoned through this bill. Poaching and illegal harvest of plants and animals will still be loudly and roundly condemned.