

Submitter: James Adkins
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HJR5

Chair Fahey and members of the Committee,

I support this proposed resolution and encourage the committee to support it. This resolution will strengthen Oregonians' and visitors' ability to access nature. This resolution will confirm the rights for everyone to hunt, fish and forage for food and it will help protect these rights against attempts to weaken or dissolve them by anti-hunting groups, for example IP 13.

The concerns around this kind of amendment undermining the use of hunting licenses, weakening the role of our wild life management agency, and promoting poaching of wild animals are unfounded. Dozens of other states have adopted similar language and those sorts of issues have not been identified. Poachers and those who wish to take game unethically will likely behave improperly regardless of this kind of amendment.

I do ask that the committee evaluate including the language "traditional methods and manners". I do think that these kinds of parameters around harvesting of plants and animals is already encoded in the directives of our agencies and our laws. Including the words "traditional methods and manners" may make this language more legally complicated down the road if challenged.

In other words, the state agency will ensure that legal methods of taking game will remain traditional, ethical and incorporate the principles of fair chase. It does not necessarily need to be spelled out in this document.

It may make more sense to remove those words and simply say " Residents of this state have the right to fish, hunt or harvest wildlife and gather wild foods subject only to laws enacted by the Legislative Assembly and rules adopted by state agencies to promote sound wildlife conservation and management."

Thank you very much for considering this resolution today,

James