

Submitter: Andy Gilbert
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB3390

This bill is simply a back door attempt to end recreational trapping in Oregon by disincentivizing the activity by removing the financial aspect of trapping. What the authors of this bill failed to realize is that trapping of animals will still occur. The only difference is that the animals will be wasted if pelts can't be sold and the trapper will be charging the land owner for their services instead of doing it in exchange for the pelts at no cost to the landowner.

There seems to be a lack of realization on the benefits that recreational trapping provides. Mitigating livestock and crop damage, providing genetic and biological samples (otter and bobcat jaws, marten reproductive tracts and several university genetic research studies) to further successful research and conservation of the species to name a few. Also mitigating mink and otter damage to the state's numerous state, federal and private fish hatcheries which includes numerous stocks of fish that are listed under the Endangered Species Act.

All of these benefits are provided for free by trappers and will not be occurring if this bill passes. The economic costs for animal control will go up but they will be eclipsed by the economic costs of damages caused by problem animals. Google: "Fernley Nevada canal breach" to see what happens when muskrats get out of control in an area that didn't allow trapping. This bill will create this exact situation that occurred in Fernley, no incentive to remove nuisance animals will result in property damage. Everyone loves beavers until they are flooding their property, at which time a trapper will charge to remove those problem animals which could have been controlled before flood damage occurred—but that recreational trapper has been disincentivized to solve this problem for free.

In closing, the most appalling piece of this bill is that members of federally recognized tribes in Oregon will still be allowed to buy or sell furs BUT ONLY for traditional, religious or spiritual uses. You don't think there are any tribal members in Oregon that engage in recreational trapping for income and for making their traditional items using wild caught fur to sell to non-tribal members? This bill will literally take a source of income away from an already marginalized population in Oregon that oftentimes already lives below the poverty line. I would like the authors of this bill to explain how taking an economic opportunity away from a tribal member makes Oregon better? It is clear cut discrimination if you ask me.

I urge you to reject this bill for its economic damage it will create and it's blatant discrimination against Oregon tribes. This state can do better...