

Submitter: Bryn Spence
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure: HB3390

As a fly tyer and avid angler, I strongly oppose the proposed bill Job 3390 from Oregon. This bill seeks to restrict the use of certain materials in fly tying, including feathers from game birds such as pheasants and grouse. While the intent of the bill may be to protect wildlife, it is misguided and would have a negative impact on the fly tying community, as well as the broader fishing industry.

First and foremost, fly tying is an important aspect of the sport of fly fishing. Many anglers, myself included, enjoy tying their own flies as a way to customize their gear and enhance their fishing experience. Fly tying also allows anglers to create patterns that mimic the natural food sources of fish, which can be crucial for success on the water. By restricting the use of certain materials, this bill would limit the creativity and effectiveness of fly patterns, ultimately detracting from the overall enjoyment of the sport.

Furthermore, the fly tying industry is an important part of the larger fishing industry. Tying materials such as feathers, furs, and synthetics are sold by countless retailers across the country, and the demand for these materials supports many small businesses and jobs. If certain materials are prohibited, it could lead to a decline in the demand for tying materials and potentially result in job losses within the industry.

It is also worth noting that many of the materials targeted by this bill are already subject to strict regulations and are ethically sourced. The fly tying community is keenly aware of the importance of responsible sourcing and sustainability, and many materials are obtained from reputable suppliers who prioritize ethical practices. Rather than imposing additional restrictions, efforts should be focused on promoting responsible sourcing and encouraging ethical practices across the board.