

Submitter: Jesse Lene
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB812

Greetings,

My name is Jesse Lene. I am a 39-year Oregon resident and the West Coast Regional Director for The Fallen Outdoors, a non-profit dedicated to getting veterans outdoors to hunt and fish at no cost to them. Our organization is unique—we are entirely staffed by veterans and active-duty service members and exclusively serve veterans, active-duty personnel, and Gold Star families.

In Oregon, we are honored to work alongside private landowners who graciously provide access to their property, allowing us to facilitate life-changing hunting experiences through the Landowner Preference (LOP) tag system. These opportunities are invaluable, particularly for disabled veterans, who may face mobility challenges and other barriers that make traditional public land hunts difficult, if not impossible.

The LOP system enables us to plan and execute hunts with the predictability and structure necessary to accommodate these veterans. When we are able to secure access to private land, we eliminate many of the stressors associated with public land hunts—such as overcrowding, uncertain availability of campsites, and the complexities of competing for road access and prime hunting areas. For many of the veterans we serve, the outdoors is a form of therapy, a means of healing from the visible and invisible wounds of service. A stressful, unstructured experience on public land can often be counterproductive to our mission.

Conversely, when we rely on the general draw system or over-the-counter tags, we are frequently left scrambling—rushing to put together hunts on short notice, struggling to secure appropriate locations, and expending valuable time and resources that could be better spent directly serving those who need these experiences most.

By making LOP tags permanent, you would be ensuring that organizations like The Fallen Outdoors—and the veterans we serve—can continue to benefit from stable, well-planned hunting opportunities. This change would not only honor the commitment of Oregon's landowners who support our mission but would also provide a lasting impact on those who have sacrificed so much for our country.

I respectfully urge you to support the permanent implementation of LOP tags,

ensuring that these vital opportunities remain accessible to those who have given so much in service to our nation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jesse Lene
West Coast Regional Director
The Fallen Outdoors