

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Matt Little and I am Ducks Unlimited's Policy Director for Oregon and the Western Region. Ducks Unlimited is North America's primary organization dedicated to wetlands and waterfowl conservation, with over 6,000 members in Oregon and more than 131,000 acres of habitat locally conserved. We also believe strongly in hunter safety.

Many people don't know this but the primary source of state conservation dollars comes from hunters and firearms sales. Ducks Unlimited was founded by hunters in 1937. That same year hunters successfully lobbied Congress to establish a tax on themselves, at 11%, on the sale of firearms and ammunition, to promote wildlife conservation. This Pittman-Robertson tax, as it is called, goes back to the states and combines with fishing and hunting license and tag sales as the primary sources of current funding for ODFW's wildlife conservation work.

There are currently multiple bills proposed in the Oregon legislature that threaten this important source of Oregon conservation revenue by making the safe practice of hunting for food less accessible to low and middle income families. HB 3075 and Measure 114 do this by requiring new hunters to go through redundant gun safety training programs. Since I was a child, all new hunters in Oregon and throughout America are required to pay for and go through a thorough gun safety training program offered by state wildlife agencies like ODFW.

Our ask today is simply to allow Oregon's well-established hunter safety program to be considered an "approved" training program for a hunting firearm purchase. Otherwise, we will be discouraging a healthy outdoor activity that many families, including my wife and two girls, enjoy and use to provide locally sourced and ethically harvested food to our tables.

Thank you for your time.