



Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation  
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March 22, 2025

**House Committee on Judiciary.**

**RE: HB 3076 –**

This letter is to share thoughts from the Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation (OR WSF) related to HB 3076.

The purpose of the Oregon Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation (OR WSF) is to promote and enhance populations of bighorn sheep (BHS) and Rocky Mountain goats. OR WSF fund initiatives, partnerships and projects throughout the State of Oregon and beyond to accomplish our purpose and mission. We support scientific solutions to resource management challenges, and we invest in disease research, BHS transplants, habitat management, population management, predator management, and conservation education. We want to ensure that BHS populations and their habitats are effectively managed, accessible, utilized and supported by interested stakeholders. OR WSF members are sportsmen and women, recreational shooters, and conservationists. Members support hunting as a wildlife conservation and management tool.

OR WSF opposes HB 3076. As hunter conservationists our organization and members purchase, own, and use firearms as a necessary element of their activities. We auction and raffle firearms at our banquets and other events to raise funds for BHS conservation projects. We believe in hunting and firearms safety.

The OR WSF believe that safety and security is important, but this amendment is likely to be too costly for many local businesses that sell or repair hunting families' firearms. It appears the only Federal Firearms Licensed (FFL) representatives that would survive these requirements are large multi-state businesses such as Cabela's and Sportsman's Warehouse. This bill will directly reduce the number of new hunters and firearms owners and, in turn, would directly reduces conservation funding through the Pittman-Robertson Act tax and hunting license and tag fees. Combined, these

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represent the largest sources of wildlife conservation funding in Oregon through Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

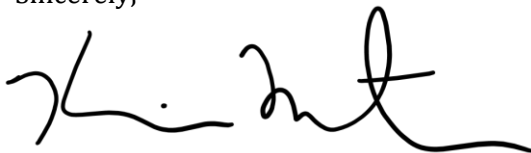
Oregon's hunters and recreational shooters contribute tens of millions of dollars for conservation efforts under the Pittman-Robertson Act (PR). The PR imposes an 11% excise tax on every purchase of firearms, ammunition, and hunting equipment. Under the Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) distributes excise tax revenues based on a formula using the state's land and water area and the number of paid recreational hunting and fishing license holders in the state. Grant funds are used for projects to restore, conserve, manage, and enhance wildlife and their habitats.

In 2023, the Service distributed a record \$1.6 billion in PR and related funds, including over \$28 million in wildlife restoration and hunter education grants to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). The likely reduction in firearm sales will make it more difficult to hunt (thus potentially cutting license sales). Hunting tradition and the ability to introduce youth and new hunters to this tradition could also suffer. This will decrease this critical funding for ODFW and harm Oregon's wildlife, habitat, and conservation efforts because there will be fewer resources available to invest in management. Please ensure that any new requirements are feasible and affordable.

Nonprofit conservation organizations like OR WSF depend on funding raised at private banquets in Oregon to fund a large portion of our conservation work. We use these funds to restore and improve populations and habitat of Oregon's BHS for the continued enjoyment of all Oregonians, visitors and our communities. Our fundraisers offer many hunting equipment items for auction and/or raffles including rifles, shotguns, handguns and other equipment used for hunting, watching wildlife and enjoying our vast public lands across Oregon. These events are safe and have FFL representatives on location to ensure the safe and legal transfer of firearms. However, we have concerns that the limits to dealers and infrequent sellers in this proposed bill may apply to OR WSF and our fund raisers. Please work with hunting organizations to make sure that these limitations do not apply to nonprofit fundraising events.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on these important conservation issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Martin', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin Martin  
President, OR WSF

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