



# OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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March 31, 2025

Senate Committee on Rules  
RE: SB 1046

Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) is Oregon's largest state-centric hunter conservation organization, representing over 12,000 sportsmen and women throughout 26 chapters in the state. Our mission is 'to protect Oregon's wildlife, habitat, and hunting heritage' and we strongly support science-based wildlife and habitat management.

OHA is neutral on SB 1046.

OHA supports the concepts of SB 1046 and the efforts to increase voter registration, and participation, in Oregon. As an organization of 12,000 members, OHA encourages our membership to become registered voters, not only to ensure the voices of Oregon's sportsmen and women are heard, but as part of every Oregonian's civic duty.

However, we have a few concerns regarding implementation, interface with existing Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) technology, and fiscal responsibility related to the bill.

Currently, Oregonians wishing to purchase a hunting or fishing license can do so through ODFW's website or mobile application. This process, referred to as the "e-license" option has become a useful tool for many participants. Given the identification verification, including signature verification, needed when registering to vote, it is unclear how this would interface with the online or mobile options for purchasing ODFW products. OHA is concerned this may create obstacles for purchasing hunting and fishing licenses and may negatively impact the participation in those activities.

Beyond the questions regarding implementation and interfacing with technology, SB 1046 would require substantial funding to create the necessary processes within ODFW to gather and maintain, at a secure level, the personal information of Oregonians.

ODFW's budget is made up primarily of license dollars, paid by rate-paying consumers such as hunters and anglers, and federal funds in the form of excise taxes, also paid by hunters and anglers, and grants. Conversely, the General Fund contribution to ODFW's budget is historically minimal at approximately 10% of the agency budget.

HB 2432, currently in Ways & Means, would institute a fee increase for the rate-paying community to keep the agency solvent at its current service level through the next three biennia. Given the historically high portion of ODFW's budget the rate-payers consistently provide, and the impending increase in those fees, OHA insists that any additional funding required by SB 1046 be appropriated through the General Fund. The additional costs of implementation, maintenance and storage of personal information must not be added to the already increasing financial load placed on the rate-paying community for the purposes of wildlife conservation and management.

Thank you for your time,  
Amy Patrick  
Policy Director