



February 4, 2019

The Honorable Senator Floyd Prozanski
Chairman, Oregon Senate Judiciary

Sent via email Sen.FloydProzanski@OregonLegislature.gov

Please reject SB 723

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing on behalf of the National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA), an Oregon-based animal welfare organization that was founded in 1991. Our members include pet owners, people who enjoy outdoor sports, kennel and cat clubs, as well as rescue groups, veterinarians and numerous other animal professionals and animal-related businesses. We have members in all 50 states but our biggest pool of active supporters - more than 6,000 - live in Oregon where we are headquartered.

Our mission is to promote the welfare of animals, strengthen the human-animal bond and safeguard the rights of responsible animal owners. As urban populations advance, our ability to preserve our domestic breeds and conserve wildlife species grows more difficult and requires a deeper understanding of the traditions and structures that are associated with their protection.

We are writing to ask you to reject SB 723. It promotes the goals of special interests who oppose hunting and fishing and does not reflect the values of the majority of Oregonians. Oregon's magnificent outdoor environment is one of its most treasured assets and provides exceptional opportunities for hunting and fishing. Many families move to Oregon for the wide-open spaces and outdoor sports available here.

The proponents of SB 723 realize that most urban Oregonians know very little about hunting and hope that urban lawmakers likewise are uninformed about how organized hunting and fishing events are conducted and the role that derbies play in those events. In fact, derbies are closely associated with hunting and fishing traditions and provide an educational function that helps maintain ethical and responsible hunting practices focused on wildlife conservation. In any case, if SB 723 passes, it will have far-reaching and destructive consequences for Oregon's rural citizens.

Please oppose SB 723. Its passage would conflict with existing Oregon laws and the rules promulgated by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission. It harms wildlife management in Oregon, allowing predators to overpopulate, and diminishes citizen enjoyment of the great Oregon outdoors.

In closing, please know that we would be happy to provide you with further information on this subject.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patti Strand". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patti Strand, president NAIA