

Enrolled

House Concurrent Resolution 8

Sponsored by Representative SCOTT, Senator BEYER; Representative P SMITH, Senator ATKINSON (at the request of Oregon Chapters of SCI "First for Hunters")

Whereas sportsmen and sportswomen have made important contributions to American society, such as the traditions and values of sportsmen and sportswomen and the many economic benefits associated with outdoor sporting activities; and

Whereas there are many millions of sportsmen and sportswomen in the United States and close to one million sportsmen and sportswomen in Oregon; and

Whereas sportsmen and sportswomen, who come from all walks of life, contribute to conservation efforts and help stimulate the economy, especially in small rural communities; and

Whereas sportsmen and sportswomen demonstrate the values of conservation, appreciation of the outdoors, respect for the game pursued and love of the natural beauty of the United States; and

Whereas sporting activities have both physical and mental health benefits that allow Americans to escape from the fast pace of life and to spend time with families and friends; and

Whereas many sportsmen and sportswomen consider hunting, trapping and fishing of tremendous importance to the American way of life; and

Whereas in 2001, Oregon sportsmen and sportswomen contributed \$1.7 billion to Oregon's economy; and

Whereas sportsmen and sportswomen contribute a significant portion of wildlife conservation funding nationally as well as within Oregon; and

Whereas the tens of millions of American hunters and anglers are a substantial economic force, spending billions of dollars and supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs and small businesses across the country every year; and

Whereas former President Theodore Roosevelt, a sportsman himself, established America's first national wildlife refuge 102 years ago, and, due in part to the committed support of sportsmen and sportswomen over the past century, the National Wildlife Refuge System now includes more than 540 refuges spanning 96 million acres throughout all 50 states; and

Whereas the State Department of Fish and Wildlife, with the financial support of sportsmen and sportswomen, operates 19 wildlife areas; and

Whereas the funds raised from sportsmen and sportswomen through the purchase of upland bird and migratory waterfowl stamps from the State Fish and Wildlife Commission are used to protect and preserve critical wetlands, provide hunting access to private lands, conserve migratory and upland bird populations and provide crucial funding for numerous other projects aimed at managing bird populations; and

Whereas the funds raised from sportsmen and sportswomen through the national sale of Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, commonly known as Duck Stamps, are used to purchase and restore vital wetlands in the National Wildlife Refuge System; and

Whereas the sale of Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps has raised more than \$700 million, which has been used to acquire approximately five million acres of refuge lands so far; and

Whereas the United States Congress passed the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act in 1937, which is also known as the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act, to impose an excise tax on ammunition and firearms, the proceeds of which are distributed to the states for wildlife restoration; and

Whereas the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act has created a source of permanent funding for state wildlife agencies that has been used to rebuild and expand the ranges of numerous species, including wild turkey, white-tailed deer, pronghorn antelope, wood duck, beaver, black bear, American elk, bison, desert bighorn sheep, bobcat, mountain lion, bald eagles, sea otters and numerous song birds; and

Whereas in 1950, the United States Congress passed the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act, which is also known as the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act, to impose an excise tax on sport fishing equipment, the proceeds of which are used for constructing fishing hatcheries, building boat access facilities, promoting fishing and educating children about aquatic resources and fishing; and

Whereas the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act was amended in 1984 to extend the excise tax to previously untaxed items of sport fishing equipment and to dedicate a portion of the existing federal tax on motorboat fuels to the purposes of the Act, so that now a substantial amount of all the funds expended by state fish and wildlife agencies for maintenance and development of sports fisheries are collected through the use of this excise tax; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the Seventy-third Legislative Assembly:

- (1) Recognize the importance and contributions of sportsmen and sportswomen to Oregon;
- (2) Support the traditions and values of sportsmen and sportswomen;
- (3) Support the many conservation programs implemented by sportsmen and sportswomen;
- (4) Recognize that the management of fish and wildlife in Oregon is supported by hunting, fishing and trapping activities as well as conservation organizations that support such activities;
- (5) Recognize the many economic benefits associated with outdoor sporting activities as well as the negative impact caused by a reduction in these activities; and
- (6) Recognize the importance of teaching the traditions of hunting, trapping and fishing to future sportsmen and sportswomen and recruiting future sportsmen and sportswomen.

Adopted by House April 4, 2005

Chief Clerk of House

Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate May 3, 2005

President of Senate