

April 21, 2023

Oregon Joint Committee on Ways & Means
900 Court St., NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Senate Bill 348 A- Measure 114 Implementation

To the Honorable Members of the Oregon Joint Committee on Ways & Means,

On behalf of hundreds of thousands of sportsmen and women in Oregon, whose interests our organizations represent, we write to share our substantial concerns with Senate Bill 348 A (SB 348A) – legislation that would require an expensive and exhaustive permitting process for the lawful transfer of firearms, impose a 3-day waiting period on firearm purchases, impose training requirements on Oregon’s law-abiding hunters and recreational shooters, restrict certain firearm purchases for Oregon’s youth hunters under 21 years of age, and restrict standard capacity magazines that are commonly found in the hands of hunters and recreational shooters. The constitutionality of these Measure 114 provisions, the ballot initiative that SB 348A seeks to implement, are currently being reviewed in both federal and state court. Any legislative action to enact these provisions should only be considered after these cases have been fully decided. Even then, the below signed organizations who represent the interests of youth and families from all parts of the state – organizations that believe in safe gun ownership and enjoy the tradition of hunting with firearms in Oregon – urge you to strongly consider the egregious impacts that SB 348A will have on our state’s outdoor heritage and conservation efforts.

Oregon’s hunters and recreational shooters have been the primary funders of state level conservation for more than 85 years. Through the American System of Conservation Funding, hunting license fees go directly back into conservation by the State to protect lands, waters, and habitats important to Oregon’s wildlife. Also, the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937 dedicated an excise tax on firearms and ammunition that contributes millions of dollars each year directly into state conservation efforts. Oregon’s hunters and recreational shooters are proud to contribute to these funds when purchasing our firearms and licenses. Last year alone, ODFW received over \$25 million dollars through Pittman-Robertson allocations, and when combined with hunting and fishing license sales, results in around 47% of ODFW’s budget being comprised of sportsmen-generated dollars. Unfortunately, SB 348A, if passed, would threaten this very funding that supports the state’s delicate habitats and wildlife populations—something that all Oregonian’s should care about.

The expensive and exhaustive requirements and prohibitions of SB 348A create significant barriers to entry for youth and families hunting in Oregon. This will very likely result in fewer new hunters enjoying this outdoor family activity and will diminish the positive impacts that hunting has on Oregon’s natural habitats. We share the interests of promoting safe firearm ownership and we hope you will work closely with our community to find positive opportunities to do so without diminishing the recruitment and retention of hunters and recreational shooters in Oregon that are vital for the future of conservation funding in our state. As you move forward on firearms-related bills, please feel free to contact us through Keely Hopkins with Congressional

Sportsmen's Foundation, khopkins@congressionalsportsmen.org or Amy Patrick with Oregon Hunters Association at amy@oregonhunters.org.

Sincerely,

Keely Hopkins
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

Amy Patrick
Oregon Hunters Association

Cyrus Baird
Delta Waterfowl

Matt Little
Ducks Unlimited

Jason Wisniewski
Fur Takers of America

Charles Whitwam
Howl For Wildlife

Torin Miller
National Deer Association

John Daniel
National Trappers Association

Leonard Krug
Oregon Angler Alliance

George Pitts
Oregon Association of Ranges

Kerry Spurgin
Oregon State Shooting Association

Walter Chuck
Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation

Bill Richardson
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Chris Tymeson
Safari Club International