

Good Afternoon Senator Baldacci, Representative Roberts and admired members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. My name is Jared Bornstein, I am here today on behalf of T. Roosevelt Action as well as generations of future hunters and anglers whom we must preserve our way of life here for.


One of the biggest things that I disagree with our state government about is the manner in which it categorizes my ability to hunt. If you ask, they would say something like "hunting is a privilege." If you ask me, I would say something like "hunting is a spiritual, ancestral and natural right ceded to me at birth by the universe that oversees our existence; that is necessary both for individual human survival and the benefit of our broader ecosystem." A bit more esoteric. The reason I say these things is because they're true. Humans have hunted since before our species was even split off from the Homo tree. It is older than our very existence. It is the reason that we are here today, that our ancestors took advantage of nutritionally dense game that allowed our species to propagate and prosper for millennia. I do not only get a nutritional benefit when I eat the 2lbs per day of game meat that I eat. I get a spiritual benefit, being connected to my environment, the earth and my fellow that I share with. Not so different than when loincloths were the trendy outfit. It is my belief that governments job is to manage that right in a responsible way so that it is equitable for all to partake in.

Now, the reason it needs to be a privilege for the government is because they want to be able to take it away from someone who commits a crime. This amendment continues their ability to do so. It also continues their ability to regulate season dates, license fees and bag limits. Additionally, it leaves in place their ability to shut down a specific type of hunting should it no longer be sustainable for the population being hunted. You see, enshrining their ability to do this in the constitution not only protects the hunters from harm, it also protects our herds from harm in that it mandates a healthy balance between the annual harvest and needs of the wildlife.

I have been asked, frequently, whether or not this is another way to get the ban on Sunday hunting lifted. The answer is no. First, the language in this amendment is much more preclusive than in the Right to Food amendment when it comes to the logic that the justices used in their decision against the claims plaintiff made in Parker v. Camuso. Second, the case has already been decided, I nor any organizations that I am affiliated with are interested in re-litigating it. Someone else could, they could even file the same exact lawsuit that we did on the Right to Food if they wanted to, it will get dismissed outright. You should not use Sunday hunting as a reason not to support this Amendment.

Why should you support this amendment? It mandates that hunting and fishing will be the preferred methods of management for fish and wildlife. Again, harkening back to our campfire days when hunting and fishing were the only means of wildlife management, whether the hunting was done by human or animal. This amendment protects hunting for non-traditional food game, as well as fishing. The decision in Parker v. Camuso only protects hunting for food, not fur bearer hunting or catch and release fishing. For these reasons, and many more I urge you to support our natural right to hunt and fish. I would be happy to answer any questions the committee may have.

Sincerely,



Jared Bornstein
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