

Public Forum
Ron Hjort

Testimony before the ODFW Commission June 6th, 2019

My name is Ron Hjort I live at 2371 Goodrich Hwy, Oakland, Oregon

Thank you Commissioners for allowing me to speak to you today. I am a 72 year old Disabled Veteran wounded in combat while serving in Vietnam. I have a permanent disability rating of 100% from the Veteran's Administration. I hold a Permanent Hunting and Fish License (for 31+ years) and Disabilities Permit both from the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife. I have lived in Oregon since 1956, entered the Army from Oregon, and returned here and have lived here ever since. In May of 2018 I wrote and asked ODFW about having a Pioneer/Disabilities License so I could receive the Controlled Hunt points allowed Pioneer License holders. I was advised that I would have to surrender my Permanent Disabled Hunting and Fishing License before I could have a Pioneer License and receive Hunt Points or I could ask the Legislature to have it changed. I believed this to be unfair as I cherished My permanent Disabled Hunting and Fishing License I believe I earned it the hard way (being wounded) and giving it up is not what I believe should happen. Therefore, I wrote to Senator Prozanski about having some Legislation that I believe would correct the situation and allow those of us that are eligible for a Pioneer License and possess a Permanent Disabled Hunting and Fishing License be allowed to keep our current Permanent Disabled Hunting and Fishing License and still be able to earn the same points as a Pioneer License Holder. Senator Prozanski introduced SB 593 to correct this situation. The Bill passed the Senate and the House unanimously and was signed by the Governor and is now written into Law. I would appreciate your amending your OAR'S to allow this Legislation to take affect for the 2020 Controlled Hunting process. I have attached some simple and short language that would comply with the law passed by SB 593. I appreciate your consideration and hope this can be accomplish as it has taken me over a year to get this far. I would be happy to answer any questions. Again, thank you for a allowing me to speak today.

Sincerely,

Ron Hjort

2371 Goodrich Hwy.

Oakland, Oregon 97462

(541) 459-0778

(6) Applicants, except for those with a Pioneer Angling/Hunting License or Disabled Veteran License, successful in drawing their first choice hunt except numbers ending in 99 within a hunt series shall have zero preference points when they next apply for a tag in that hunt number series. Successful Applicants with a Pioneer Angling/Hunting License or Disabled Veteran License shall have one preference point when they apply for a tag in that hunt number series.