

Chair Gomberg and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing me the time to give you my views about HB 3333.

My name is Blaine Ackley and I reside at 655 NW 229<sup>th</sup> Ave., Hillsboro, OR 97124. My wife and I are licensed Oregon fisher folk and I do not represent anyone but myself.

To begin I want to say that I support HB 3333 as written.

Let me also say that I support the work of the Oregon Water Enhancement Board (OWEB). The board has done a lot to improve fisheries habitat in Oregon.

Since HB3333 is making a little tweak to improve the OWEB funding process I thought this would be a perfect time to make one other improvement to OWEB.

Last May, I had a short conversation with an ODFW fisheries biologist about the projects that were funded by the Oregon Water Enhancement Board (OWEB). This ODFW biologist told me that looking at the OWEB funded projects, he was surprised that some other proposed projects had not been funded because at least one other project could have provided more salmon habitat recovery than the project that OWEB did fund.

When I examined the funding process I learned that ODFW staff are included in all the regional sub-committees that review projects prior to submission to OWEB. However, once these projects have been forwarded to OWEB, the ODFW staff do not have the opportunity to review the projects or have a voice in the decision.

Yes, it is true that an ODFW commissioner is a voting member of OWEB but none of the commissioners are trained professional fisheries biologists who have a whole state view of fisheries habitat recovery needs and efforts.

I believe adding a professional fisheries biologist with a state wide view to OWEB as a non-voting member would be an asset and provide the board with the big picture for salmon and steelhead habitat recovery in order to reach their funding decisions.

I am not familiar with the bill writing process but I believe that this could be accomplished by

Adding a new section 3 to the HB 3333 identifying that this would amend ORS 541.900 by adding a new sub-head (d) to section 2 (B) to read:

The director of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife or a designee as a non-voting member