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Chair Witt, Vice-Chairs McClain & Kreiger &
Members of the Oregon House of Representatives Agriculture and Natural
Resources Committee

RE: HB 3333 & transparency

I was disappointed that I did not receive a chance to testify yesterday at the committee hearing. However, I did learn a lot about the sage grouse issue. I take some solace because I have already sent you two notes about my proposed amendment to HB 3333 (to include the ODFW director or his designee as non-voting members of the Oregon Water Enhancement Board).

However, I will not be able to attend the HB 3333 hearing next week on Tuesday March 24, but I do wish to point out one interesting detail about the sage grouse panel that you heard yesterday. Please note that the committee relied on the testimony from the ODFW representative about the biological facts regarding the sage grouse.

Why is there NO provision for an ODFW representative on OWEB? How can OWEB possibly make effective and accurate assessments of proposed projects with a state wide view if they do not have anyone from ODFW to advise them on

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the scientific facts about state wide issues facing endangered salmon and steelhead?

During the discussion with Representative Gomberg about HB 3333, some people were talking about transparency for the public. In addition to passing HB 3333 as written, including an ODFW member on the board would give the public some assurance that factual evidence and a scientific opinion with a state wide view will be part of the decision making process.

I for one will not purchase a salmon license plate until there is an ODFW representative on the board.

So please consider 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

Some people may argue that having an ODFW commissioner on OWEB is representation but the commissioner is not a trained biologist and does not have a state wide, day to day view of the state of the salmon and steelhead recovery efforts.

Sincerely yours,