

As a biologist, sport fisher, and Oregon taxpayer I want the Senate Rules Committee to oppose Governor Brown's appointment of Mr. Bruce Buckmaster to the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

A former lobbyist, Mr. Buckmaster represented the very special interest of fewer than 200 permit holders in the Columbia River gill-net industry. Given that Ms. Laura Anderson already serves on the commission, it is inequitable that the interests of hundreds of thousands of sport fishers are not better represented on the Commission.

Gill nets indiscriminately kill most of the creatures that swim into them. Recently, and after lengthy delays, Oregon and Washington agreements (and Oregon law) have moved some gill nets into SAFE zones, out of the main Columbia River migration routes for threatened runs of wild salmonids. Sport fishers are now willingly paying a license fee surcharge to facilitate these changes. While I do not know Mr. Buckmaster or Ms. Anderson personally, their stance on gill-netting raises questions about their understanding of science and social responsibility.

Thank you for opposing Mr. Buckmaster as a new Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissioner. We need more open minded commissioners.

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