



Established 1960

## Association of Northwest Steelheaders

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House natural resources committee (HB 2747)

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Thank you Chair Witt and committee members. My name is Bob Oleson and I'm here on behalf of NW Steelheaders. Anglers provide a big portion of ODFW funding and each year our organization alone provides tens of thousands of hours of free time and labor for fish and fishing. We appreciate this opportunity today for stakeholders and others to discuss this proposal for establishing a more effective and more representative ODFW Commission.

Many Oregon anglers continue to be upset with what they see as a failure of recent commissions to fully implement Governor Kitzhaber's Columbia river fisheries reform law. We believe this is an example of a law which could have been implemented years ago with either a responsive commission or ongoing legislative oversight. Furthermore, sports angler representation on the commission could improve regulatory decisions and increase fishing opportunity for Oregonians.

It is hard to determine if the specific bill before you will significantly improve our representation or the ability of the ODFW commission to follow through on major legislative mandates. At this point in time the recruitment of first rate commission candidates is dependent upon the Governor's staff being diligent and fully engaged with major communities of interest. The upcoming group of commission appointments will provide a good test of the current administration and the existing appointment process.