



**HB 2747 – Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
David Moskowitz, Executive Director
April 1, 2019**

Dear Honorable Chair Brad Witt and members of the Committee:

The Conservation Angler does not support HB 2747, which addresses how the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission represents Oregonians, as currently written or amended.

Generally, TCA finds that the current system for representation on the ODFW Commission based on congressional districts and two at-large representatives from east and west of the Cascades is the most equitable way to distribute representation.

TCA finds that it makes sense to base representation principally on population rather than geography. The amendments to HB 2747 which bases representation on geography would result in too much representation of areas with relatively small populations. TCA would view this as a step in the wrong direction for the Oregon F&W Commission. It is important that the F&W Commission represent the people of the state as equitably as possible – to give weight to the old adage “one person, one vote.”

TCA opposes tying any F&W Commission positions to specific special interests as proposed in HB 2747 as introduced and is perpetuated in amendments under review. The existing language is more than adequate to advise the Governor to provide due consideration to the various types of expertise needed on the F&W Commission.

TCA is also opposed to singling out agricultural interests (in particular) and hunting and fishing permit holders (generally) as is proposed in the -2 amendments. The F&W Commission must respond to the shifting demographics of the entire state – beyond the license buyers and only the landowners - if it is to grow its base of support in the future.

Considering the wide array of stakeholders with vested interest in the protection and management of Oregon’s fish and wildlife populations, The Conservation Angler urges the House Natural Resource Committee to not move HB 2747, either as introduced or as amended, forward.

Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Please do not pass HB 2747. It is unnecessary.

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