

Chair Helm and members of the committee,

My name is Heath Hampel, I am the current owner of Chucks Seafood. In addition to being a business owner my philanthropic activities have been heavily concentrated on restoring salmon through the various STEP programs. In recent years I, along with many other have felt extremely under represented. My current ODFW commissioner representing my area is Mary Wahl. She lives full time in Portland and I can say with absolute certainty she does not represent her district at all. The decision-making body tasked with managing wildlife and habitat across the diverse landscape of Oregon should equally represent that diversity in its structure.

Regional representation, such as the utilization of the five river basin management areas, would provide an equitable and more diverse representation of the state. It isn't hard to prove that the lion share of our representation is in fact from Portland or its suburbs (Wahl, King, Khalil) I realize that Wahl may be listed as Langlois, but as "everyone" knows Commissioner Wahl has spent almost of her entire career in Portland, her commissionership is stilted by the fact that her family owns a ranch in Langlois that she might spend less then 5% of her time at. This is an example of one of the abuses that have taken place under the congressional model.

The five river basin management areas have statutory precedent in ORS 536.022 as the regional representation for establishing the Oregon Water Resources Commission. This model has provided equitable representation for all Oregon citizens regarding the imperative issues surrounding water policy and would do the same when applied to wildlife and habitat management policies. A regional representation model ensures that all of Oregon's natural resources, wildlife, and habitat needs are included in a truly diverse and equitable Commission structure. This ensures the best management decisions for Oregon's wildlife, habitat, and the public at large. Not just the needs of Portland. Regional representation brings more diversity to the commission. Not only are some of the fastest growing Hispanic communities located on the eastern side of the state but Tribal entities are more disbursed throughout the state than can be represented by a congressional district model.

In closing,

As a business owner, and STEP member of mixed decent. I implore you to do the right thing and vote for the Basin management option. One of the main reasons I voted for Governor Kotek was her promise to bring Oregon's rural communities back into Oregon. In all honesty we haven't felt like part of 'Oregon at all under the previous governors tenure. I can't think of a single act that would encourage us as coastal Oregonians to feel included once again then by giving us a voice in our natural resources which we hold so dear. Also note that the only group that is opposing this is the hyper rich self-proclaimed environmental groups that you never seem to see on river clean up days with the rest of the STEP groups...

Thanks
Heath Hampel

