

Submitter: Jim Soares

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and
Water

Measure: HB3086

The current structure of the ODFW Commission needs to be revised. the addition of a sixth congressional district results in a need to change how the commission is structured. Currently the commission is chosen by population. This leaves a large portion of the state underrepresented. Rural sections of Oregon contain the majority of the habitat and wildlife. This under represented population provides a large portion of license and tag fees which support the ODFW budget. A more equitable way to choose ODFW Commissioners would be by river basins. There is statutory precedent for this in ORS 536.022 providing regional representation as established by the Oregon Water Resources Commission. If the five river basins was used, as in the Water Resources Commission allowing a commissioner for each of the five basins the a commissioner could be named to represent both East and West of the Cascades as is currently done.

In rural Oregon there is a tremendous amount of frustration with the Fish and Wildlife Commission. A far greater percentage of rural Oregonians purchase licenses and tags than individuals in urban areas, yet there is more representation on the commission for those in urban areas. The result is the majority of the funds for the ODFW are generated by rural individuals who are underrepresented in the commission.

I urge you to support HB 3086.