



**CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF
COOS, LOWER UMPQUA AND SIUSLAW INDIANS
TRIBAL GOVERNMENT**

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March 24, 2023

RE: Support for HB 3086

Dear Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Hartman, Vice-Chair Owens, and members of the Committee,

I am writing to urge you to pass HB 3086 out of committee, as introduced. The Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians have managed the lands, waters, fish, and wildlife within our Ancestral Territory since time immemorial. Through millennia of experience as the stewards of these natural resources, we have come to appreciate the incredible diversity of our native ecosystems. Sustainable management of these diverse ecosystems requires the knowledge of local people who possess first-hand experience gained from living within those ecosystems.

HB 3086, as introduced, will empower local people to contribute to the sustainable management of fish and wildlife, as well the sustainable management of the diverse ecosystems on which they depend, by requiring that the State Fish and Wildlife Commission includes representation from all of Oregon's major ecoregions. This approach will result in a commission that includes a diversity of local people who possess the diversity of localized knowledge that is required to sustainably manage fish and wildlife across the entire state.

The Tribe does not support the -1 amendment that would define the composition of the Commission based on congressional districts. Congressional district boundaries are a relatively new concept to the Tribe. Since time immemorial, we have described and managed our Ancestral Territory based on drainage basins. The ecoregion or basin approach to dividing the landscape is one that acknowledges ecological differences between drainage basins. It is also one that makes sense in the context of managing fish and wildlife. Drainage basin divides have real-life implications for our native species, while congressional district boundaries do not.

Respectfully,

Brad Kneaper
Chair, Tribal Council
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower and Siuslaw Indians