



**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**
OREGON

March 24, 2023

Committee Chair Ken Helm
Committee Vice Chair Annessa Hartman
Committee Vice Chair Mark Owens
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Statement of Support for HB 3086

Dear Chair Helm and Vic Chairs Hartman and Owens:

The Oregon Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers is pleased to support HB 3086 as written or with the -2 amendment; we are opposed to the -1 amendment, relating to updating the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Commission structure. Equal representation such as the five major river basin management areas, as proposed in the legislation, would provide an equitable and more diverse representation of the state of Oregon. This model has a proven track record of success with the Oregon Water Resources Commission (ORS 536.022) in providing equitable representation for all Oregon citizens regarding numerous issues relating to water policy. This model can be successfully replicated with the ODFW Commission structure.

A regional river basin representation model would ensure that the people, fisheries, wildlife, habitat, and natural resources are more equitably represented in management decisions by the State of Oregon. Regional river basin representation brings more equity and diversity to the commission. Some of the fastest growing Hispanic communities are located on the eastern side of the state, which currently has minimal representation. This new concept would ensure communities statewide are represented by someone from the region. Additionally, Tribal entities are more dispersed throughout the state than can be represented by a traditional congressional district model. A regional river basin representation model would add opportunity to strengthen the voice of these important stakeholders.

. Oregon has a variety of landscapes, populated by different wildlife with differing needs and management based on the region. Proper management decisions must be rooted in representation from these different sectors of the state.

We urge your support for HB 3086 to ensure Oregon's wildlife, habitat and the public are afforded diverse regional representation needed to ensure proper management of the State's resources for generations to come.



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Thank you for your consideration of Oregon Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers support for HB 3086. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at oregon@backcountryhunters.org should you need additional information.

Sincerely,



Ian Isaacson | Co-Chair, Oregon Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers



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