



COQUILLE INDIAN TRIBE

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March 27, 2023

RE: Support for HB 3086

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

On behalf of the Coquille Indian Tribe, I urge the Committee to pass HB 3086, as introduced, and:

Elevate Ecological Diversity over Political Dominance in Fish and Wildlife Policy

Oregon's fish and wildlife species, populations, and the habitats upon which they depend are diverse, and varied across its incredible landscape. The fish and wildlife management opportunities and challenges we must address in order to ensure healthy and sustainable populations are rooted in natural and ecological features, such as watersheds or river basins. Congressional districts are drawn and clustering in Oregon by sheer voting power alone. The scientific information and Tribal traditional knowledge that *must* ground fish and wildlife policy has frequently been developed and learned, specifically, within the context of major river basins and watersheds.

Take a Step Forward in Dismantling an Inequitable System

In June 2022, Governor Brown supported the Coquille Indian Tribe's historic Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Management Agreement and said: "*As we engage in the difficult work of dismantling systems of racism and colonialism, we must work together to find innovative ways to create a just and equitable Oregon.*"

The fifty-year-old Oregon law that concentrates Oregon's fish and wildlife policy body representation on the majority population is part of an inequitable system. It should not be retained, and certainly not expanded (as HB 3086-01 proposes). HB 3086 distributes Commission representation to major river basins and much more equitably provides Oregon's Tribes access and voice to influence fish and wildlife policy within those river basins with the traditional knowledge they each possess.

The Coquille Indian Tribe looks forward to working with you to advance HB 3086, dispense with the anachronism of a political boundary-based Commission, and make science, traditional knowledge, and racial and ecological diversity the new future for shaping fish and wildlife policy in Oregon.

Shuenhalni! (Take care!)

Brenda Meade
Chairman, Coquille Indian Tribe