

Submitter: Josh Bettsworth

On Behalf Of: all Oreogn

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

Measure: HB3086

Chair Helm and members of the committee,

Please vote in favor of the basin concept. 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.

Congressional districts are not the appropriate model of representation for wildlife and habitat management. Oregon has a variety of landscapes, populated by different wildlife with differing needs based on the region. Proper management must be rooted in representation from these different sectors of the state. The current congressional model has failed all user groups outside of hyper wealthy misinformed not for profits.

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. The congregational model further muddies the water by injecting politics into science. Those that claim the basin model will somehow remove proportional representation are few. Most are openminded enough to give all Oregon a voice, tribes, people of color, and our minority communities that are rarely represented.

Chair Helm, Committe members Please give ALL Oregon a voice not just those of the Portland and its suburbs, please vote in favor of the Basin concept.