



**COW CREEK BAND OF UMPQUA TRIBE OF INDIANS  
GOVERNMENT OFFICES**

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House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
900 Court St. NE, H-490  
Salem, Oregon 97301  
RE: HB 3086

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

I am writing to express the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians (Tribe) support for House Bill 3086 as introduced. We have reviewed the original bill and the proposed amendments. Appointing Commissioners based on geographic region, as opposed to population, provides a more diverse and relevant representation of fish and wildlife resources that span our entire state, not just the most population-dense part of Oregon. And the addition of a sixth congressional seat provides the opportunity to reevaluate if this Commission's boundaries adequately represent the state's public interest when setting policies that affect wildlife resources for the entire state.

This letter includes a map that provides a visual for the basin approach of commission appointments with an overlay of the congressional district approach for the commission appointments. As you can see, the congressional district approach puts a disproportionate responsibility on one commissioner to represent three of the five major ecoregions. At the same time, five commissioners are responsible for representing two ecoregions. Even with an at-large member, the representation remains disproportionate to the fish and wildlife resources that are each unique and require local knowledge and understanding of the history, culture, and Tribal connections to those lands, water, and fish.

We urge you to consider this map as you deliberate this legislation and ask if the congressional district approach appropriately represents the vast bounty of fish and wildlife resources across the state far beyond the most populated areas.

To that end, we also encourage, regardless of what version of the bill is ultimately passed, that one criterion for all commissioners is to understand the role and relationship of Oregon's federally recognized tribes to the natural resources that we have managed and nurtured for time immemorial. Therefore, our request is that request that section (7) be amended as follows:

(7) All members of the commission shall have: a general knowledge of fish and wildlife issues; **an understanding of the role and relationships Oregon Federally recognized tribes have to lands, water, and natural resources that the commission governs**; and, an understanding of the operation and functions of public policy boards and commissions. In making appointments to the commission, the Governor shall consider appointing members with natural resource backgrounds such as commercial fishing, recreational fishing, hunting, agriculture, forestry, conservation, **and traditional knowledge**.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments on HB 3086. We are available to answer any questions and discuss our preference for the basin approach and our amended language at your convenience.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carla Keene". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carla Keene, Tribal Chairman  
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians