



# OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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March 28, 2023

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
RE: HB 3086

Chair Helm, Vice-chairs Hartman and Owens, Members of the Committee,

The Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) is Oregon's largest state-centric hunter conservation organization, representing 10,000 sportsmen and women throughout 26 chapters in the state. Our mission statement is 'to protect Oregon's wildlife, habitat, and hunting heritage' and we have a strong history of advocating for science-based wildlife management.

OHA supports HB 3086 as written and we also support the -2 and -4 amendments as all three options support the five river basin management area model. We strongly oppose both the -1 and -3 amendments. OHA recognizes the importance of the tribal voices who have engaged on HB 3086 and we strongly urge the committee to take heed of these voices.

Regional representation, such as the utilization of the five river basin management areas, would provide an equitable and more diverse representation of the state. In addition to the five positions specific to the river basin management areas, the current statute stipulating one at-large member residing west of the summit of the Cascade Mountains and one at-large member residing to the east of the summit should be retained to maintain the 7-member commission.

The five river basin management areas have statutory precedent in ORS 536.022 as the regional representation for establishing the Oregon Water Resources Commission. This model has provided equitable representation for all Oregon citizens regarding the imperative issues surrounding water policy and would do the same when applied to wildlife and habitat management policies.

It is our recommendation that the governing statute should retain the stipulation of Commission appointments possessing a background in natural resources to ensure an understanding of all the varying interests and stakeholder viewpoints. Additionally, the commission appointments should continue to be nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, as is current statutory practice.

We urge the committee to support HB 3086 as the base bill, with the -2 amendment, or with the -4 amendment. All three options remain rooted in the five river basin model and utilize the most appropriate representation for the ODFW Commission.

Thank you,  
Amy Patrick  
Policy Director