



HUMANE VOTERS | OREGON

Testimony of Humane Voters Oregon on House Bill 3086
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

March 27, 2023

Chair Helm, Vice Chairs Hartman and Owens, and Members of the Committee:

Humane Voters Oregon is a nonprofit organization that works in Oregon's political process and elections to promote humane treatment of animals. We are not affiliated with any other state or national organization.

Humane Voters Oregon opposes House Bill 3086 as introduced. We support the proposed -1 amendments.

HB 3086 would update specifications for appointments to the Fish and Wildlife Commission, which is necessary because current specifications require appointment of five members by Congressional district while Oregon now has six Congressional districts. As introduced, HB 3086 would appoint five members by water basin (plus one additional member from west of the Cascade Mountains and one from east of the Cascade Mountains). The proposed -1 amendments would appoint six members by Congressional districts, including one from east of the Cascades and one from west of the Cascades, and one member at large considering geographic diversity. The -1 amendments would also limit the description of qualifications to knowledge or experience related to Oregon's statutory wildlife policies.

Humane Voters Oregon opposes HB 3086 as drafted (and with the -2 or -4 amendments) because it would result in some areas of the state being overrepresented relative to their populations. The Commission should represent people, not land area.

We support the -1 amendments both because they would make the least change in the current Commission structure and because they would continue to ensure something close to proportional representation of the state's population. Proportional representation is important because the Commission manages fish and wildlife for all people in the state, without priority for any geography.

Humane Voters Oregon also supports the -1 amendments because they would eliminate the direction to represent particular perspectives on the Commission, which inevitably leaves out other important perspectives. Consideration of only knowledge or experience related to the Commission's statutory charge should be sufficient and will help promote a greater diversity of perspectives.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Brian Posewitz
Director