

Submitter: Alijana Fisher

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB3086

Date: March 28, 2023

To: House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

RE: HB 3086

I am writing to urge legislators to vote NO on HB 3086. Under current law the Fish and Wildlife Commission consists of seven members, with one appointed from each congressional district, one from east of the Cascades, and one from west of the Cascades. Redistricting, and the addition of another congressional district in Oregon, now requires a change in the statute.

I am worried about HB 3086. As a BIPOC person in Oregon, who has lived my entire life in the state, I have not seen widespread representation for people like me on our state's commissions. This does not reflect our state's rapidly changing demographics. The Fish and Wildlife Commission is already an unpaid job, which means that only certain individuals can have the privilege of working on it with no compensation. This bill would further create inequities in the Fish and Wildlife Commission's structure. Members of the commission must serve and represent the public interest at-large, but this bill without being proportionate to population would put unjust barriers on diverse candidates and not represent the public at-large.

Decisions on fish, wildlife, and habitat impact us all, which is why we must maintain a system that fairly represents all people in Oregon. I support maintaining a seven-member commission that is proportionate to population. This will ensure that the public interest in fish, wildlife, and habitat will be represented equitably.

Please vote NO on HB 3086- I urge the legislature to support a technical fix rather than a wholesale change to the way the commission is structured.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

Sincerely,
Alijana Fisher