

March 28, 2023

RE: Opposition to HB 3086

Dear House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water,

Portland Audubon and its over 16,000 members across the state urge the Committee to maintain an ODFW Commission structure based on proportional representation to ensure that the public interest in fish, wildlife, and habitat will be represented and that we have a diverse candidate pool that reflects Oregon's rapidly changing demographics.

**President**

Judith Ramaley

**Vice President**

Debbie Elliott

**Secretary**

Merril Keane

**Treasurer**

Bob Sternberg

Eric Block  
Mark Greenfield  
Vicente Harrison  
Amanda Jordon-  
Brainard  
Roberta Jortner  
Colleen McDaniel  
Ruth Morton  
Mary Rose Navarro  
Linda Neale  
Elizabeth Semler  
Patrick Slabe  
Allan Solares  
Tammy Spencer  
Jasmine Streeter  
Rich Van Buskirk

Please move forward with a technical fix, requiring minimal changes to the existing structure based on congressional districts. Specifically, we recommend maintaining a 7-member commission and amending ORS 496.090(4) to read: One member of the commission shall be appointed from each of the six congressional districts of this state, and one member shall be appointed at large. Of the seven members appointed by the Governor, and to ensure geographic representation, at least one member must be from among individuals who reside west of the summit of the Coast Mountain Range and at least one member from among individuals who reside east of the summit of the Cascade Mountain Range.

We strongly oppose the model proposed in HB 3086, which is based on river basin management areas, because this model was created to meet the needs of an unrelated state commission. The argument that river basins are more "ecologically" based is misplaced as many wildlife and fish species transect multiple river basins during their life cycles. Further, it represents a concerning move away from proportional representation on state boards and commissions and toward politically motivated models that prioritize land and industry representation. This model would dilute the voice of the public at large and reduce diversity on the Commission.

Sincerely,  
Joe Liebezeit



Interim Statewide Conservation Director  
Portland Audubon