



House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

***Re: Testimony in opposition of HB 3086 but supporting -1 amendment – Relating to the State Fish and Wildlife Commission***

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

On behalf of the Humane Society of the United States and our members and supporters in Oregon, I am writing to oppose **HB 3086, though we would support the proposed -1 amendment.** We have not had time to review the -3 amendment. We appreciate the work toward a reasonable compromise on this issue, as redistricting has necessitated an update to ORS 496.090. The -1 amendment would enact a minimal change and would maintain representation of Fish and Wildlife Commissioners based on congressional districts, with geographic distribution maintained by requiring at least one Fish and Wildlife Commissioner from west of the Cascade Mountains, and at least one member from east of the Cascade Mountains, as well as one member “at large.”

As Oregon’s demographics evolve, so do our state’s values toward wildlife. According to the landmark [America’s Wildlife Values](#) study, the percentage of mutualists – who “believe wildlife are part of our social network and that we should live in harmony” – is 40 percent in Oregon, an increase of 6 percent between 2004 and 2018, while the percentage of traditionalists – who “believe wildlife should be used and managed for human benefit” – has decreased by 5.5 percent, to 27.5 percent in the same timeframe. Additionally, Oregonians increasingly appreciate and participate in so-called “non-consumptive” [wildlife-related recreation](#), with 85% of survey respondents expressing interest in future wildlife viewing and 33% actively participating in wildlife viewing in Oregon.

Having a Fish and Wildlife Commission that is composed of candidates that represent a diversity of backgrounds, experience, knowledge, and interests is key to conserving and managing wildlife in the public trust for all Oregonians. As such, the required qualifications for Commissioners should not be so specific and restrictive that they unintentionally exclude valuable potential candidates.

In conclusion, we oppose **HB 3086, though we would support the proposed -1 amendment.** We have not had time to review the -3 amendment.

Thank you very much,

Story Warren  
Program Manager, Wildlife Protection  
Humane Society of the United States