

Submitter: Jennifer Wolfsong

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB3086

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 3086 which would change appointment of members of the ODFW Commission from one from each congressional district to one from each of the five regional river basin management areas. The purpose of this change is to eliminate proportional representation thereby amplifying the voices of some Oregonians over others when it comes to the management of our wildlife and ecosystems.

One of the common arguments for this change seems to be that people who live in rural areas should have more say than people who live in the city, but this is not only unfair, it is also contrary to ORS 496.090. Although I live in the Portland area (Beaverton), as often as I can, I leave the city to hike, camp, bird watch, kayak and in general, find peace and solace in nature. I, therefore, care deeply about the management of our wildlife and ecosystems and should have just as much say as anyone who has the good fortune to live in a rural area or anyone who has purely consumptive interests. Additionally, pursuant to ORS 496.090, the ODFW Commission members "shall represent the public interest of the state". What is the public interest if it isn't proportional representation and an input of diverse voices in the natural resource management of our state? HB 3086 undermines this statutory requirement and will reduce the diversity of the Commission, thereby silencing some voices and amplifying others.

I strongly urge you to oppose HB 3086 and support maintaining a Commission structure of proportional representation. Thank you for your time and consideration.