



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

P.O. Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501 • (541) 772-7313
oha@ccountry.net • oregonhunters.org

Testimony on HB 3086
Paul Donheffner, Chair, Legislative Committee

The Oregon Hunters Association, with over 10,000 members in 26 chapters statewide is in strong support of HB 3086 as introduced. The composition of the Fish and Wildlife Commission is of utmost concern to OHA, and the changes made now will have critical implications for the future of our fish and wildlife resources.

We support the proposed river basin model, which is also used for the Water Resources Commission, as the best way to ensure that the appointment of commissioners is well balanced statewide. Our fish and wildlife resources exist in every corner of the state, and they deserve to have commissioners who reflect all parts of the state.

The alternative of using congressional districts does not provide for a fair and balanced makeup for the commission. Consider that 4 of the 6 current Congressmen and women live within 50 miles of zip code 97201.....that is to say Portland. So it is possible to have a commission where the majority comes from the Portland metro area, or Northwest Oregon.

Considering that the 4th district is also south western Oregon, it is very likely that 5 of the 7 commissioners will come from western Oregon. This leaves only one guaranteed commissioner to represent all of eastern Oregon. At best, there would be 5 western Oregon and only 2 eastern Oregon commissioners under the congressional district model. This is unfair and unacceptable.

Using river basins as a blueprint ensures that Fish and Wildlife commissioners aren't bunched up from NW Oregon. This model provides the best balance for the natural resources that the ODFW manages. It also avoids the future issue of what to do if and when Oregon gets a seventh district.

OHA recommends that HB 3086 as introduced, using a river basin model, be approved.