

Submitter: Zachary Dahl

On Behalf
Of:

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

Measure: HB3086

I am writing in support of the proposed amendments to House Bill 3086. The people in charge of decision making should equally match the diversity of Oregon Natural Resources. Regional representation of five river basin management areas will provide an equitable and diverse solution for the state.

As an Oregon citizen who lives in a rural community, we feel that our voices are not heard with legislation being passed, and governing boards filled with by citizens who do not relate to Rural Oregon nor understand the diversity of Oregon's vast natural resources that so many of us rely on. This bill helps to ensure that our voices are heard and we are adequately represented.

Using congressional districts has proven to not work due to inexperience, lack of working knowledge of our many resource industries, and not having equitable representation. Oregon's natural resources, wildlife, and habitat deserves people that have a vested interest in a higher standard for the future of Oregon.

The utilization of the five river basin management areas would provide an equitable and more diverse representation of the state. In addition to these five positions, the current statute stipulating one at-large member residing west of the summit of the Cascade Mountains and one at-large member residing to the east of the summit should be retained to maintain the 7-member commission.

The five river basin management areas have statutory precedent in ORS 536.022 as the regional representation for establishing the Oregon Water Resources Commission. This model has provided equitable representation for all Oregon citizens regarding the imperative issues surrounding water policy and would do the same when applied to wildlife and habitat management policies.

A regional representation model ensures that all of Oregon's natural resources, wildlife, and habitat needs are included in a truly diverse and equitable commission structure. This ensures the best management decisions for Oregon's wildlife, habitat, and the public at large.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely;
Zachary R Dahl