

Submitter: Jacob Williams

On Behalf  
Of:

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

Measure: HB3086

Regional representation based on the five river basin management areas provides a more equitable and diverse representation of the state. The other two commissioners would be appointed at large, one from each side of the Cascades. Regional representation has precedent with the Oregon Water Resources Commission and has provided equitable advocacy regarding the imperative issues surrounding water policy. Realigning the Fish and Wildlife Commission would do the same when applied to wildlife and habitat management policies.

The qualifications of commissioners need to be a continuing concern. A background in natural resources, as well as being appointed by the governor, and confirmed by the Senate all ensure that varied interests and stakeholders are the make up of Oregon's commissioners. Environmental groups want the current statute to remain in place, keeping the decision making power centralized in population areas that have far less interaction with regional issues.

I urge the committee to vote in support of HB 3086.

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