

Submitter: Jeff P
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure: HB3086

Representatives,

Thank you for considering my SUPPORTIVE comments regarding proposed HB3086 currently being considered; further discussion relative to amendments may be required.

The current statute aligning the Commission representatives to population by congressional district leaves a majority of the state under-represented. Most of those areas contain a large portion of the state's habitat and wildlife. The purpose of the Commission is for maintaining and representing wildlife and habitat across Oregon and their interests – not the people.

I support regional representation based on the five river basin management areas being proposed in the original text; this provides an equitable and more diverse representation of the state's wildlife, habitat and interests. In addition, as originally written, the at-large members, one residing west of the summit of the Cascade Mountains and one residing to the east of the summit should be retained to complete the 7-member commission. No further amendment required.

This model, similar to the Oregon Water Resources Commission, would provide equitable representation for all Oregon wildlife and habitat with consideration for all citizens when establishing policy. Simply, it provides for the most diversity and input to consider the benefits for Oregon's wildlife.

I further support the stipulation of Commission appointments possessing a specific and formal experience, knowledge and background in fish and wildlife issues and an understanding of the operation and functions of the public policy boards and commissions. I believe the wildlife of Oregon deserves a greater level of knowledge of the intricate elements that drive big game, non-game, predator, invasive species, fishery management and natural resources in this state.

Finally, ALL governor commission nominations should continue to be confirmed by the Senate, as is current statutory practice.

I urge support for a Commission structure that provides Oregon's wildlife and habitat with the diverse regional representation under HB3086.

Jeff P

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