

**Emerson Levy**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
House District 53



## **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Tuesday, May 23, 2023

I am proud to be a part of the broad coalition of those supporting HB 3086, which brings forth a proposal that aims to ensure equitable representation within the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission by transitioning from a population-based approach to the regional representation found in HB 3086's five river basin model. This shift is crucial to fostering local-based planning for our cherished waterways and promoting fairness in decision making processes.

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission holds significant responsibility in managing and conserving our state's fish and wildfires resources. However, the current population-based structure often overlooks the unique challenges faced by various regions across Oregon. By transitioning to a regional representation model, we can empower local communities and ensure their voices are heard when crafting policies that impact their respective waterways.

The five-river basin model provides an ideal framework for this transition, offering a fair and balanced approach to representation. Each basin possesses distinct ecological characteristics, challenges, and opportunities. By appointing commissioners from each basin, we can bring diverse perspectives and expertise to the decision-making process. This approach will enable us to incorporate the nuanced needs of each region into our policies, leading to more effective management strategies and a greater sense of ownership among local communities.

Equitable representation is not only about fairness; it is about acknowledging that the health and vitality of our waterways rely on the knowledge and experience of those who intimately interact with them. Local-based planning recognizes the importance of community engagement and harnesses the expertise of individuals who have a deep understanding of their region's unique ecosystems and challenges. It enables us to make decisions that are rooted in the realities of each basin, ensuring that our actions have a positive and lasting impact on the environment and the people who depend on it.

By embracing regional representation and local-based planning, we can foster a greater sense of collaboration between communities, conservationists, and policymakers. It will encourage dialogue and empower individuals to actively participate in the decision-making process, leading to more inclusive and sustainable outcomes. Moreover, this shift will strengthen the trust between the public and the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, as people will see their concerns and perspectives genuinely reflected in the management of our precious resources. In conclusion, let us seize this opportunity to enhance the effectiveness and fairness of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission by transitioning from a population-based structure to a regional representation model. By adopting the five-river basin system and promoting local-

based planning, we can ensure that our policies are rooted in the needs and aspirations of our communities. Together, let us pave the way for a more equitable, sustainable, and prosperous future for Oregon and its magnificent waterways.

Thank you, and I urge you to support this important reform.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Levy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some ink bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

Representative Emerson Levy