

**Testimony on HB 3086**  
**Oregon House Committee on Rules**  
**3:00 PM, Tuesday, May 23, 2023**

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chair Breese-Iverson, Vice-Chair Kropf, and members of the Committee,

My name is Julie Siestream, and I serve on the Tribal Council for the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians. I am here today to voice the Tribes' strong support for HB 3086-7, which would require that State Fish and Wildlife Commissioners are appointed from each of Oregon's regional river basin management areas. We do **not** support any of the HB 3086 amendments that would define the membership of the commission based on congressional districts.

Our Tribes have managed the lands, waters, fish, and wildlife within our Ancestral Territory since time immemorial. Through millennia of experience as the stewards of these natural resources, we have come to appreciate the incredible diversity of our native ecosystems. Sustainable management of these diverse ecosystems requires the knowledge of local people who possess first-hand experience gained from living within those ecosystems.

The "regional river basin" approach embodied in HB 3086-7 will empower local people to contribute to the sustainable management of fish and wildlife, as well the sustainable management of the diverse ecosystems on which they depend, by requiring that the State Fish and Wildlife Commission includes representation from all of Oregon's major ecoregions. This approach will result in a commission that includes a diversity of local people who possess the diversity of localized knowledge that is required to sustainably manage fish and wildlife across the entire state.

We support the -7 amendment, which would require that these commissioners possess an understanding of the unique relationship between Oregon's federally recognized Indian tribes and the natural resources that the Commission governs. These natural resources have been managed sustainably by Tribal people since time immemorial. A Commission that is equipped to work with Tribes, integrating Indigenous Knowledge and management philosophies, will be better equipped to sustainably manage these natural resources for present and future generations.

The Tribe does not support any of the amendments which would define the composition of the Commission based on congressional districts. Since time immemorial, we have described and managed our Ancestral Territory based on drainage basins. The ecoregion or basin approach to dividing the landscape is one that acknowledges ecological differences between drainage basins. It is also one that makes sense in the context of managing fish and wildlife. Drainage basin divides have real-life implications for our native species, while congressional district boundaries do not.

We encourage you to move HB 3086 out of your committee with the -7 amendment.

Thank you for your time.