



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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May 23, 2023

House Committee on Rules
RE: HB 3086

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

The Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) is Oregon's largest state-centric hunter conservation organization, representing 10,000 sportsmen and women throughout 26 chapters in the state. Our mission statement is 'to protect Oregon's wildlife, habitat, and hunting heritage' and we have a strong history of advocating for science-based wildlife management.

OHA supports HB 3086 with the -7 and -8 amendments.

HB 3086 has been through a robust and exhaustive public input process. The public record shows the immense amount of public input registered on the bill; over 1,000 pieces of testimony submitted in two public hearings with the vast majority of those testimonies in support of the river basin concept.

HB 3086 is supported by six Oregon Tribes, a historic event in Oregon's legislature. The Coquille Indian Tribe, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Confederated Tribe of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, Burns Paiute Tribe, and Confederated Tribe of Grand Ronde are on record in support of the river basin model.

HB 3086 is supported by the majority of stakeholders who work directly with, or are directly impacted by the decisions of, the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) Commission. Twenty-five organizations from the conservation, sportsmen, and natural resources communities have signed on in support of HB 3086.

HB 3086 has bipartisan and bicameral support among the legislature. Eight Democrats and fifteen Republicans have signed onto the bill as sponsors. The Coastal Caucus and the Sportsmen's Caucus have both submitted letters in support of HB 3086 into the public record and to the Governor's office.

HB 3086 increases representation by regional diversity and allows for greater cultural diversity among the ODFW Commission. Increasing regional diversity and representation does not decrease the ability of the Governor to appoint conservation-minded individuals to serve as ODFW Commission members. To state, as some have, that only Oregon's most densely populated areas house diverse, ecologically-savvy, conservation-minded individuals is not only absurd but elitist and arrogant. The statement is offensive to every individual who lives in each

of these river basins and holds contextual knowledge regarding the needs, issues, and opportunities specific to these regions.

HB 3086 represents an ideological change regarding the representation of the policy-making body tasked with management of Oregon's fisheries, wildlife, and their habitats. Moving away from a model based on human population dynamics and politically drawn boundaries to one more in tune with landscapes, topography, and traditional knowledge relevant to fisheries and wildlife is admittedly a noteworthy change. However, it is a change that better prepares the ODFW Commission, and the agency itself, for the challenges and opportunities on the horizon with increased access to Tribal tradition knowledge, regional voices, and continued representation of all Oregonians.

OHA urges your support of HB 3086 with the -7 or -8 amendment.

Thank you,
Amy Patrick
Policy Director