



Dean's Office  
College of Agricultural Sciences  
Oregon State University  
430 Strand Agricultural Hall  
Corvallis, Oregon 97331

P 541-737-5835

F 541-737-4574

W. Daniel Edge, Co-chair SB 202 Task Force  
College of Agricultural Sciences  
Oregon State University  
Corvallis

**Testimony Supporting HB 2386 submitted to the  
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**March 23, 2021**

I am an Associate Dean in the College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University and I am a Wildlife Ecologist and educator by training. I had the pleasure of serving as co-chair of the SB 202 Task Force on Independent Scientific Reviews for Natural Resources in the state of Oregon. The SB Task Force, composed of 13 scientists from Oregon's three main research institutions, industry, and non-governmental organizations, worked for nine months to produce our report. I want to acknowledge the support we received from the Institute for Natural Resources at OSU and a professional facilitator, Jane Barth, who provided invaluable assistance in facilitating our meetings and in preparing our report. I also want to thank Representative Holvey and staff for drafting HB 2386, which so closely aligns with the recommendations in our Task Force report. My testimony represents my view as a scientist with almost 30 years of experience in natural resource issues and is not meant to represent the views of the College of Agricultural Sciences or OSU in general.

The SB 202 Task Force concluded that most single-agency scientific reviews can be met with existing state, federal, and academic resources, but review practices and capacity for conducting reviews vary among agencies. However, there is a need for independent scientific review of complex, multi-disciplinary issues in natural resources that span multiple agencies and are relevant to stakeholders, lawmakers, and natural resources managers. Existing resources are not adequate for these types of reviews. The growing distrust of science, the level of scientific literacy among Oregonians, and the proliferation of "alternative facts" will necessitate Oregon having an independent scientific review system that provides trusted analysis of the many complex problems facing policy makers and natural resources managers. These complex issues cannot be resolved using dueling science or incomplete understanding of the human and ecological systems underpinning natural resource management. HB 2386 creates an independent scientific review process that is transparent and inclusive, that will focus on the most critical issues of statewide importance, and is both cost effective and flexible. Reviews conducted under this process will be future oriented, and have a high likelihood of positively influencing natural resources management in Oregon. We support adoption of HB 2386.

In closing, I want to thank you for your time and I urge the committee to recommend for adoption the bill.