



Senate Committee on Natural Resources  
900 Court St NE  
Salem, Oregon 02.19.2023

### **Testimony in support of SB 886**

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Girod and Members of the Committee

The Conservation Angler supports SB 886.

SB 886 is an important administrative fix to an otherwise successful program at Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), passed with bipartisan support in 2019, finding that protecting sensitive wildlife locations was ODFW's responsibility when location monitoring efforts put certain indivisible species at higher risk.

The bill protected sensitive wildlife location data such as location of nesting sites, denning sites, and radio collar frequencies by creating an exemption in the public records process in sharing such data to primarily protect vulnerable individuals of wildlife species that are monitored or whose location are known by ODFW and preventing this data from being exploited or misused.

The bill allowed sharing sensitive data with government and educational institutions and certain individuals through signing a non-disclosure agreement. However, in doing so, the bill unintentionally created unnecessary challenges for ODFW in sharing such information with federal agencies, educational institutions tribal governments. The purpose was not to require non-disclosure agreements with such agencies but the bill language requires it right now.

SB 886 is an administrative fix to address this specific challenge. The 2019 legislation also included a January 2024 sunset. SB 886 would extend the sunset to 2029 – allowing ODFW to use this time to monitor the efficacy of the program and whether it meets the desired needs for which it was created.

While both are minor administrative fixes, SB 886 is critical to the continuation of the provision for ODFW to protect sensitive wildlife location data and protecting vulnerable individual members of Oregon's sensitive wildlife species.

Therefore, The Conservation Angler urges passage.

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