



Volunteer

March 27, 2023

Testimony before the Oregon
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

Subject: Support of HB 3086 – Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Membership

Chair Helms, Vice-chairs Hartman and Owens, members of the Committee

My name is David Wiley. I live in Sublimity, Oregon. I am a member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and today I am speaking for the Elk Foundation and its more than 14,000 members who live in Oregon.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) is a national non-profit hunter sponsored conservation organization whose mission is to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat, and our hunting heritage. We represent more than 225,000 members nationwide and more than 14,000 in Oregon. Since 1991 within Oregon, RMEF and its partners have:

- completed more than 1,034 conservation and hunting heritage projects in the state,
- enhancing over 865,647 acres, and
- improved recreational access to 139,655 acres.

RMEF fully supports and strongly recommends HB3086 as introduced for this Committee's full and unqualified support, approval, and passage to the full House with a do-pass recommendation.

RMEF believes the change to commissioner appointments from the five river basins areas defined in ORS 536.022 - Water Resources Commission will enhance the Fish and Wildlife Commission's representation of the wildlife resources and its policy decisions in the course of its duties prescribed in ORS 496.012 - Wildlife Policy.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission, like the Water Resources Commission, is charged with facilitating management of natural resources. A change to Commissioner representation on Fish and Wildlife Commission to the five watersheds model will bring with it improved knowledge of and affinity for the wildlife resources and circumstances the commissioner resides among. The two commissioners at large, one from the east and one from west of the Cascade Mountains would be retained. The number of Commissioners would remain unchanged at seven.

RMEF is adamantly opposed to the dash 1 Amendment to this bill.

RMEF can support the dash 2 Amendment if the five-river basin model is adopted.
Questions?