



WaterWatch of Oregon
Protecting Natural Flows In Oregon Rivers

HB 3086

Testimony of WaterWatch of Oregon

By Kimberley Priestley

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

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What HB 3086 does: HB 3086 would update specifications for appointments to the Fish and Wildlife Commission, which is necessary because current specifications require appointment of five members by Congressional district while Oregon now has six Congressional districts. As introduced, HB 3086 would veer from the current Congressional district structure to instead appoint five members by water basin, plus one additional member from west of the Cascade Mountains and one from east of the Cascade Mountains.

WaterWatch opposes HB 3086 as introduced.

WaterWatch supports either the -1 or -3 amendments.

The proposed -1 amendments would appoint six members by Congressional districts, including one from east of the Cascades and one from west of the Cascades, and one member at large considering geographic diversity. The -1 amendments would also limit the description of qualifications to knowledge or experience related to Oregon's statutory wildlife policies.

The proposed -3 amendments would add to the -1 amendments a requirement that all Commission members have an understanding of the role of federally recognized Indian Tribes in Oregon and the relationships federally recognized Indian Tribes have with the lands, water and natural resources the Commission governs.

We support the -1 or -3 amendments because these amendments would align with proportional representation of the state's population. Proportional representation is important because the Commission manages fish and wildlife for all people in the state, without priority for any geography.

Conclusion: WaterWatch urges support of either the -1 or -3 amendments.

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