

Submitter: Willis Britt

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and  
Water

Measure: HB3086

I support HB 3086 as written and also support the -2 and -4 amendments as all three options support the five river basin management area model. And strongly oppose both the -1 and -3 amendments.

Regional representation, such as the utilization of the five river basin management areas, would provide an equitable and more diverse representation of the state. In addition to the five positions specific to the river basin management areas, the current statute stipulating one at-large member residing west of the summit of the Cascade Mountains and one at-large member residing to the east of the summit should be retained to maintain the 7-member commission.

The five river basin management areas have statutory precedent in ORS 536.022 as the regional representation for establishing the Oregon Water Resources Commission. This model has provided equitable representation for all Oregon citizens regarding the imperative issues surrounding water policy and would do the same when applied to wildlife and habitat management policies.

The governing statute should retain the stipulation of Commission appointments possessing a background in natural resources to ensure an understanding of all the varying interests and stakeholder viewpoints. Additionally, the commission appointments should continue to be nominated by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate, as is current statutory practice.

I urge the committee to support HB 3086 as the base bill, with the -2 amendment, or with the -4 amendment. All three options remain rooted in the five river basin model and utilize the most appropriate representation for the ODFW Commission.