



TO: Senate Committee on Rules
 DATE: May 3, 2023
 RE: Testimony in support of SB 1095 and in opposition to the -1 amendment

On behalf of our 16 organizations, representing tens of thousands of people across Oregon, we urge you to support SB 1095 and oppose the proposed -1 amendment. Our organizations have advocated for a simple, narrow fix for the Fish and Wildlife Commission – as well as the many other boards and commissions that were impacted by redistricting and the addition of a sixth congressional seat. We believe that SB 1095 provides a clean, across-the-board solution.

Many boards and commissions, including the Fish and Wildlife Commission, have memberships linked to congressional districts. Those same boards and commissions also have their membership number capped. The addition of a sixth congressional district therefore created numerical conflicts in the enabling statutes that need to be remedied by the legislature. **We support SB 1095 as a simple, straightforward solution to a simple, straightforward math problem.**

We strongly oppose the -1 amendment, which proposes a wholesale restructuring of the Fish and Wildlife Commission. This amendment is unnecessary and undermines the intent of this bill, which is to provide transitional guidance and adjust membership of all boards and commissions whose governing body membership is based in whole or part on congressional districts.

The -1 amendment is a rushed and ill-considered proposal. Restructuring the Fish and Wildlife Commission as proposed would have ramifications for fish, wildlife, communities, and habitat conservation for decades to come. Considering a restructuring of any board or commission warrants adequate time for proper deliberation and consultation with all impacted stakeholders, Tribes, and other interested members of the public. The -1 amendment proposes a hasty overhaul of the Fish and Wildlife Commission without this necessary time, deliberation, and consultation.

We strongly support a simple fix for all impacted boards and commissions that use the long-standing congressional district model. Proportional representation – which reflects Oregon’s rapidly changing demographics – ensures the public interest will continue to be represented on state boards and commissions.

Please support SB 1095 and oppose the proposed -1 amendment.

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