



Senate Committee on Rules  
Oregon State Legislature  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

May 4, 2023

***Re: Testimony in support of SB 1095 and opposing the -1 amendment***

Dear Chair Lieber, Vice-Chair Knopp, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Humane Society of the United States and our members and supporters in Oregon, I am writing to **support SB 1095**. We appreciate the work toward a reasonable compromise on the issue that arose from recent redistricting. SB 1095 would enact a minimal change and would maintain representation of Fish and Wildlife Commissioners based on congressional districts, as well as geographic representation with one member from east of the Cascades, one from west of the Cascades, and one member representing the public “at large.”

As Oregon’s demographics evolve, so do our state’s values toward wildlife. According to the landmark America’s Wildlife Values study, the percentage of mutualists – who “believe wildlife are part of our social network and that we should live in harmony” – is 40 percent in Oregon, an increase of 6 percent between 2004 and 2018, while the percentage of traditionalists – who “believe wildlife should be used and managed for human benefit” – has decreased by 5.5 percent, to 27.5 percent in the same timeframe.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, Oregonians increasingly appreciate and participate in so-called “non-consumptive” wildlife-related recreation, with 85% of survey respondents expressing interest in future wildlife viewing and 33% actively participating in wildlife viewing in Oregon.<sup>2</sup>

In 2021 only 1.2% of the more than 6 billion dollars spent on all types of outdoor recreation in Oregon came from hunting and trapping.<sup>3</sup> And in 2021, 1.1 million park visitors spent an estimated \$91.0 million in local gateway regions while visiting National Park Service lands in Oregon—which supported 1,280 jobs, \$50.8 million in labor income, \$80.1 million in value added, and \$137 million in economic output in the Oregon economy.<sup>4</sup>

Having a Fish and Wildlife Commission that is composed of candidates that represent a diversity of backgrounds, experience, knowledge, and interests is key to conserving and managing wildlife in the public trust for all

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<sup>1</sup> Manfredo, M.J., Sullivan, L., Don Carlos, A.W., Dietsch, A.M., Teel, T.L., Bright, A.D., & Bruskotter, J. (2018). *America’s Wildlife Values: The Social Context of Wildlife Management in the U.S.* National report from the research project entitled “America’s Wildlife Values.” Fort Collins, CO: Colorado State University, Department of Human Dimensions of National Resources. <https://sites.warnercnr.colostate.edu/wildlifevalues/>

<sup>2</sup> America’s Wildlife Values: Oregon State Report at <https://content.warnercnr.colostate.edu/AWV/OR-WildlifeValuesReport.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis: Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account, U.S. and States, 2021. <https://www.bea.gov/data/special-topics/outdoor-recreation>

<sup>4</sup> The National Park Service: 2021 National Park Service Visitor Spending Effects Report <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/socialscience/vse.htm>



Oregonians. SB 1095 would maintain proportional representation of Oregon's diverse population with Commissioners representing each congressional district, and would allow for a simple update and transition – of Fish and Wildlife as well as other commissions – rather than a complete overhaul. We **oppose the proposed -1 amendment**, which would single out and completely restructure the Fish and Wildlife Commission without sufficient time for stakeholder and public consideration and input on its wide impact.

In conclusion, **we urge a yes vote on SB 1095.**

Thank you very much,

Story Warren  
Program Manager, Wildlife Protection  
Humane Society of the United States