



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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Senate Committee on Rules

Re: 1095

Chair Leiber, Vice-chair Knopp, Members of the Committee,

Oregon Hunters Association, on behalf of the sportsmen's and conservation communities, support the -1 amendment to SB 1095. In the absence of the -1 amendment, we cannot support SB 1095 moving forward.

The Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) is Oregon's largest state-centric hunter conservation organization, representing 10,000 sportsmen and women throughout 26 chapters in the state. Our mission statement is 'to protect Oregon's wildlife, habitat, and hunting heritage' and we have a strong history of advocating for science-based wildlife management.

Senate Bill 1095 attempts to put forth corrections for all commissions that are tied to congressional districts however this late entry bill fails to take into consideration bills already addressing these necessary issues.

Only two of the commissions listed in SB 1095 are in imminent need of restructuring due to currently being out of compliance with statute. Those commissions are the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) Commission and the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) Commission. Both of these commissions have bills currently in play to address their specific needs. SB 890 seeks to keep the OPRD Commission aligned with congressional districts and human populations; a fitting structure for the resource they manage. HB 3086-4 addresses the need to align the ODFW Commission with river basin management areas in lieu of congressional districts; also a fitting structure for the resource of wildlife and habitat.

HB 3086-4's river basin model would create a more regionally diverse model with more equitable representation of the state based on regions that are more aligned with wildlife and habitat management. The five river basin management areas is contained in statute (ORS 536.022) and used to population the Oregon Water Resources Commission. The resources of water, wildlife, and habitat are closely aligned, making this model the more appropriate model.

HB 3086 has a groundswell of support across many legislators and stakeholders:

- Bipartisan chief sponsors
- Bipartisan support from the Coastal Caucus
- Bipartisan support from the Sportsmen's Caucus
- Five Tribes: Coquille Indian Tribe, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Burns Paiute Tribe, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians.
- Conservation community
- Sportsmen's community
- Natural resources community
- Livestock producers community

The -1 amendment submitted for SB 1095 mirrors the language from HB 3086 with the -4 amendment. This language includes requested language from Tribal leaders and has been supported by all the stakeholders listed above.

Contrary to assertions that the river basin model is a rushed or hasty fix to the restructuring needs of the ODFW Commission, the bill has been well vetted through a public hearing in House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water Committee. As you can see through the public record (<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Measures/Testimony/HB3086>), hundreds of testimony has been submitted on the bill with the vast majority in favor of the five river basin model. In truth, the 9-member model put forth in SB 1095 is the model that is new and rushed, particularly due to the late timing of the bill's enrollment.

The ODFW Commission, which is the policy-setting body tasked with managing Oregon's extensive and varied wildlife and habitat, should adequately represent all of the regions of the state. HB 3086-4, or the language in the -1 amendment to SB 1095, are the best models to accomplish true diversity and equitable regional representation for the ODFW Commission.

Additionally, neither HB 3086-4 nor the SB 1095 -1 amendment language, alter the appointment process; the Governor continues to appoint nominees who are then confirmed by the Senate.

The broad swath of stakeholders agree: the only path forward for SB 1095 includes the -1 amendment that honors the support of HB 3086-4, in particular the multiple Tribes that have spoken out in support of the river basin model for the ODFW Commission.

Thank you,
Amy Patrick
Policy Director