



**ROCKY MOUNTAIN
ELK FOUNDATION**

May 6, 2023

Senate Committee on Rules

Subject: SB 1095

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

The purpose of this letter is to state the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and its more than 14,000 Oregon members support the -1 amendment to SB 1095. RMEF does not support SB 1095 as originally drafted.

The RMEF is a national non-profit hunter sponsored wildlife conservation organization whose mission is to ensure the future of elk, **other wildlife**, their habitat, and our hunting heritage. We represent more than 225,000 members nationwide and more than 14,000 in Oregon. Since 1991 within Oregon, RMEF and its partners have completed more than 1,034 conservation and hunting heritage projects in the state, enhancing over 865,647 acres and improved recreational access to 139,655 acres.

The late entry of SB 1095 to the legislative process and fails to incorporate policy improvements found in HB 3086-4- distributing Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission representation to watershed based regional representation as opposed to periodically shifting political boundaries. The proposal in the -1 amendment has overwhelming public support, strong bipartisan legislative support, and support of five Oregon Native American tribes.

There is a critical need to focus upon the management and conservation of Oregon's fisheries and wildlife resources in a manner that only a regional representation basis can provide, as proposed in HB 3086-4 and SB 1095-1. The five-river basin model will ensure the fisheries and wildlife resources are represented by people who live among those resources.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation strongly recommends the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission's commissioner representation be reorganized under the five-river basin model as defined in statute (ORS 536.022) and used to define representation in the Oregon Water Resources Commission.


Therefore, RMEF can recommend only approval of SB 1095 as amended by -1 amendment.

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The 14,000 Oregon members of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Richardson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bill Richardson
Sr. Conservation Program Manager - Western
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation