

May 22, 2023

House Committee on Rules
Oregon State Legislature

Subject: HB 3086

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Kropf and Breese-Iverson, Members of the Committee,

My purpose in writing to you is to encourage the Committee to move HB 3086 with the -7 Amendment to the Full House with a Do-pass recommendation.

As an Oregon native who is a hunter, fisherman and conservationist, I support HB 3086 with the -7 amendment, and you should too.

HB 3086 changes the geography of Fish and Wildlife commissioner representation to watershed basins as defined in Oregon Statute from the current federal House of Representative District maps. Current federal District maps would place five of six authorized commissioner representation in the northwest ~25% of the state. There are two additional commissioners authorized, one east and one west of the Cascades a change to which is addressed by the -7 amendment that is discussed later in this letter.

HB 3086 will ensure that the wildlife and fisheries resources of our state are represented by Commissioners who reside among the resources and the community the resources directly impact. A more regionally diverse representation of the ODFW Commissions better aligns with the Commission's duties to set management policy for fisheries, wildlife, and their habitat in the state.

Please consider, HB 3086 has widespread support from the "original" conservation community, hunters and fisherman and their signature organizations, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Oregon Hunters Association, Ducks Unlimited, fisheries organizations and others to numerous for the space allowed. At least five native American tribes have signaled their support for HB 3086. And there is broad bipartisan legislative support for HB 3086 in both houses of the legislature.

The -7 amendment provides a reasonable option for allowing the two at-large positions to be selected statewide. It also ensures no single river basin has disproportional representation by stipulating that these positions cannot be from the same river basin.

HB 3086 offers Oregonians from across state the opportunity to serve on the Commission, thus contributes to the diversity of Fish & Wildlife Commissioners and is a small step in bridging the "East-West Divide" so often acknowledged as a detriment to Oregon community.

HB 3086 does not change how commissioners are appointed; it changes only where they will be appointed from.

I urge your support for HB 3086-7 and pass it out to the full House with a Do-pass recommendation.



David D. Wiley