



Volunteer

May 22, 2023

Testimony before the House Rules Committee

Subject: HB 3086

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

My name is David Wiley. I live in Sublimity, Oregon. I am a member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) and today I am speaking for the Elk Foundation and its more than 14,000 Oregon members.

RMEF fully supports and strongly recommends HB3086 with the -7 amendment for this Committee's full and unqualified support, approval, and passage to the full House with a do-pass recommendation.

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.

HB 3086 will ensure that the wildlife and fisheries resources of Oregon 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 very widespread support. Support not only from the "original" conservation community, hunters and fisherman and their signature organizations, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Oregon Hunters Association, Ducks Unlimited, numerous 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.



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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 contributing to the diversity of Fish & Wildlife Commission's knowledge of the resources they are charged to conserve for the use and benefit of all Oregonians.

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 to pass it out to the full House with a Do-pass recommendation.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) is a national non-profit hunter sponsored 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 of wildlife, and
- improved recreational access to 139,655 acres

Thank you for this opportunity. Are there any questions?