



**BACKCOUNTRY
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**

P.O. BOX 9257
MISSOULA, MT 59807
406.926.1908

**On Behalf: Oregon Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers -
Oregon@backcountryhunters.org**

House Committee on Rules Re: Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Structure

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

The Oregon Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers represents roughly 1000 paying members and over 4000 supporters in the state of Oregon. We are writing to express our support of HB 3086 as written with the -7 amendment.

HB 3086 provides a regional river basin representation model that ensures the people, fisheries, wildlife, habitat, and natural resources are more equitably represented in management decisions by the State of Oregon. Regional river basin representation brings more equity and diversity to the commission. This new concept would ensure communities statewide are represented by someone from the region. Additionally, Tribal entities are more dispersed throughout the state than can be represented by a traditional congressional district model. A regional river basin representation model would add opportunity to strengthen the voice of these important stakeholders.

The -7 amendment, which offers the reasonable option of changing the two at-large positions to statewide positions, rather than the previous east/west delineation, provides a necessary stipulation that those two positions may not be housed in the same river basin area. We support the -7 amendment as it aligns with our consistent belief that diverse representation is necessary for the ODFW Commission. Making the at-large positions statewide creates more opportunity for Oregonians from around the state to serve in the capacity of commissioner while also ensuring that no single river basin receives disproportionate representation. HB 3086 does not alter the appointment process by which the Governor appoints commission nominees who are then confirmed by the Senate. This ensures Oregonians' continued representation throughout the appointment process through our elected officials.

Oregon has a variety of landscapes, populated by different wildlife with differing needs and management based on the region. Proper management decisions must be rooted in representation from these different sectors of the state. We urge your support for HB 3086-7 to ensure Oregon's wildlife, habitat and the public are afforded diverse regional representation needed to ensure proper management of the State's resources for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Oregon Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers