

Submitter: Theresa Wisner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3856

Theresa Wisner
Siletz, OR

House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water Committee
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Opposition to HB 3856 – Proposed Additional Income Tax

Dear Members of the House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 3856, which proposes a new personal income tax on all Oregon residents to fund the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). While I recognize the importance of supporting our state's wildlife and natural resources, this bill places an unnecessary financial burden on all Oregon taxpayers while offering minimal transparency on the actual use of the funds.

From my understanding of the bill, while a portion of the revenue will go to the State Wildlife Fund, any surplus will be redirected to the General Fund. This raises concerns about whether the funds will truly be used for conservation efforts or if they will be absorbed into unrelated expenditures. Furthermore, HB 2342, a separate bill already under consideration, seeks to significantly increase the cost of hunting and fishing permits. If passed in conjunction with HB 3856, this creates an additional revenue stream at the expense of both sportsmen and non-sportsmen alike.

Adding a new income tax at a time when many Oregonians are already struggling with inflation and a high cost of living is unreasonable. Taxes should be fair, transparent, and necessary. This proposal lacks justification for imposing a statewide tax on all residents, regardless of whether they participate in hunting, fishing, or other activities directly benefiting from ODFW services.

I urge you to oppose HB 3856 and instead explore alternative funding mechanisms that do not place an additional tax burden on all Oregonians. Please consider prioritizing existing revenue sources or user-based fees for those who directly benefit from the programs in question.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your service to our state and hope you will stand against this unnecessary tax increase.

Sincerely,

Theresa Wlsner