

Submitter: Corina Olsen-Fleming

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

Measure: HB 3856

Subject: **Opposition to House Bill 3856 – Unnecessary Tax Burden on Oregonians**

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 3856, which seeks to impose an additional personal income tax to fund the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). While I support responsible conservation efforts, this bill places an unjustified financial burden on Oregon taxpayers without sufficient oversight, a clear sunset clause, or guarantees of efficient fund allocation.

HB 3856 introduces a **0.13% tax on all taxable income**, generating approximately **\$195 million annually**, or nearly **\$975 million over five years**. For the average Oregon family that is already struggling, **this will take food out of their mouths!**

Key concerns with HB 3856 include:

- **Increased Tax Burden on Residents** – Oregon families already face high living costs, and this new tax unfairly adds to their financial strain.
- **Lack of Oversight and Accountability** – The bill allocates millions to specific programs, including **\$20 million for Private Forest Accord Mitigation**, with no clear mechanisms to ensure efficiency or prevent misallocation.
- **No Sunset Clause for the Tax** – Unlike the tax credit for hunters and fishers that expires in 2032, this income tax remains indefinitely.
- **Potential for Automatic Rate Increases** – The tax is indexed to inflation, meaning rates could rise annually without legislative approval.
- **Inequitable Redistribution of Funds** – While outdoor recreation and conservation efforts are valuable, this tax forces all Oregonians to fund programs that disproportionately benefit a select few, such as commercial fishery participants.
- **Encourages Out-Migration and Tax Avoidance** – Higher taxes, even marginal ones, could push businesses and individuals to relocate.

As Oregon families struggle with rising costs, implementing a new personal income tax is both unjustified and irresponsible. Rather than imposing additional financial burdens, I urge you to oppose HB 3856 and conduct a thorough internal audit to uncover fraudulent and wasteful spending on unnecessary programs. Redirecting misallocated funds toward essential services would be a far more responsible approach. This bill disproportionately impacts hardworking Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and consideration.