

Submitter: Julie Atha

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3856

Concern Regarding HB 3856 and New Personal Income Tax Proposal

Dear All Oregon Representatives ,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed HB 3856, which seeks to introduce a new personal income tax to fund the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). As an Oregon resident, I am deeply concerned about the broader implications of this bill, particularly how it would impact the financial well-being of hardworking individuals across the state.

While I understand the need for funding state wildlife efforts, I am troubled by the fact that a significant portion of the funds generated by this new tax would go directly into the General Fund, not solely to support the intended wildlife programs. This raises concerns about the potential for misuse or misallocation of resources that are meant to benefit Oregon's wildlife and natural resources.

Additionally, I have reservations about the significant increases in fishing and hunting tag prices, which seem to contradict the bill's claim of providing a tax credit for those purchasing these permits. This could result in a net increase in costs for Oregonians, rather than a beneficial change.

Given that this bill impacts every Oregon resident with a job and adds another layer of taxation, I feel it is unfair to burden the public with additional financial strain, especially when many Oregonians are already facing high living costs and economic uncertainty. A new tax is not the solution for funding wildlife programs, and I urge you to reconsider supporting this measure.

I respectfully ask that you oppose HB 3856 and work towards more responsible solutions that do not place an additional tax burden on Oregon's residents.

I understand and appreciate the intention behind providing tax credits for individuals who purchase hunting and fishing permits, I am concerned about the accompanying increase in tag prices. The significant rise in costs for these permits undermines the benefits of the proposed tax credits, making it more challenging for outdoor enthusiasts to participate in these activities. I believe that a more balanced approach is necessary to support both conservation efforts and the accessibility of hunting and fishing for the public."

Sincerely,
Julie Atha