

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON**  
**AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

February 21, 2003  
10:00 A.M.

Hearing Room B  
Tapes 20 - 21

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**     **Sen. Frank Shields, Chair**  
                                  **Sen. Roger Beyer, Vice-Chair**  
                                  **Sen. Tony Corcoran**  
                                  **Sen. Bill Fisher**

**STAFF PRESENT:**       **Judith Callens, Committee Administrator**  
                                  **Megan Jensen, Committee Assistant**

**MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:**     **SB 256 - Work Session**  
                                  **SB 281 - Work Session**  
                                  **SB 384 - Public Hearing**

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These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

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<b>TAPE/#</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>TAPE 20, A</b>		
005	Chair Shields	Calls committee meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and opens a work hearing on SB 256
<b><u>SB 256 – WORK SESSION</u></b>		
010	Judith Callens	Committee Administrator. Explains SB 256 and -1 amendments <b>(EXHIBIT A)</b> .
052	Sen. Beyer	<b>MOTION: Moves to ADOPT SB 256-1 amendments dated 2/18/03.</b>
055		<b>VOTE: 4-0</b> <b>AYE:       In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye. Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.</b>
056	Chair Shields Sen. Beyer	<b>MOTION: Moves SB 256 to the floor with a DO PASS AS AMENDED recommendation.</b>
058		<b>VOTE: 4-0</b> <b>AYE:       In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye. The motion CARRIES.</b>
060	Chair Shields	<b>SEN. CORCORAN will lead discussion on the floor.</b> Closes work session on SB 256 and opens work session on SB 281.
<b><u>SB 281 – WORK SESSION</u></b>		
062	Callens	Explains SB 281 and -1 amendments <b>(EXHIBIT B)</b> .
080	Sen. Beyer	<b>MOTION: Moves to ADOPT SB 281-1 amendments dated 2/17/03.</b>
086		<b>VOTE: 4-0</b> <b>AYE:       In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye. The motion CARRIES.</b>
088	Chair Shields	
090	Sen. Beyer	<b>MOTION: Moves SB 281 to the floor with a DO PASS AS AMENDED recommendation.</b>
090		<b>VOTE: 4-0</b> <b>AYE:       In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.</b>

092 Chair Shields

**The motion CARRIES.**

**SEN. BEYER will lead discussion on the floor.**

Closes work session on SB 281 and opens a public hearing on SB 384.

**SB 384 – PUBLIC HEARING**

103 Sen. Beyer

Explains the intent of SB 384 and asserts that the intent is not to harm water quality or salmon habitats. Clarifies that the bill does not abolish the Oregon Plan.

200 Sen. Beyer

Continues testimony. States that SB 384 would streamline government and eliminate a duplication of services by transferring the responsibilities of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

310 Tom Wolf

Oregon Council Trout Unlimited; Tualatin River Watershed Council. Provides testimony against SB 384 (**EXHIBIT C**). Asserts that OWEB should remain because of its proven ability to provide for the needs of watershed councils and other watershed groups. Says that ODFW is not structured to take over OWEB functions and would not meet the same standards of OWEB.

398 Sen. Fisher

Asks if ODFW's Access & Habitat Program is only concerned with hatcheries.

409 Wolf

Responds that the Access & Habitat Program manages wildlife.

**TAPE 21, A**

005 Jane O'Keaffe

Lake County. Provides testimony against SB 384 (**EXHIBIT D**). Believes that OWEB serves an important function and should not be eliminated.

080 Hilary Abraham

The Nature Conservancy. Submits testimony against SB 384 (**EXHIBIT E**). Believes that OWEB provides critical work in restoring healthy watersheds and habitats and no other state agency can take over OWEB responsibilities.

165 Ray Wilkeson

Oregon Forest Industries Council. Provides testimony against SB 384. Says that OWEB serves an important function in supporting the Oregon Plan.

244 Sen. Beyer

Reiterates that SB 394 will not harm the Oregon Plan.

266 Wilkeson

Stresses that the Oregon Plan is important.

283 Jim Martin

Pure Fishing. Provides testimony against SB 384 (**EXHIBIT F**). Believes OWEB helps maintain healthy populations of salmon and steelhead and plays a role of primary importance in watershed restoration.

384 Liz Hamilton

For the Sake of the Salmon (4SOS). Provides testimony against SB 384 (**EXHIBIT G**). Says that OWEB support allows 4SOS to make habitat restoration grants and maintain a directory for Oregon's watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, landowners and others to secure technical resources for restoration projects.

**TAPE 20, B**

030 Sen. Fisher

Asks about the administrative costs of the Salmon Friends Power Program run by 4SOS.

036 Hamilton

Offers to provide financial information

040 Martin

Provides clarification on the Salmon Friends Power Program.

058 Glen Stonebrink

Oregon Cattlemen Association. Gives testimony in support of SB 384. Believes that soil and water conservation districts would be able to take over OWEB functions and could serve private

		landowners best.
115	John McDonald	Oregon Association of Conservation Districts. Provides testimony against SB 384 ( <b>EXHIBIT H</b> ) and raises concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvement in OWEB grant review and approval process</li> <li>• Improved role definition among agencies, local governments, watershed councils and conservation districts</li> <li>• Incentives for cooperation and collaboration</li> <li>• Emphasis on watershed health and reassessment of the land acquisition rules and funding</li> </ul>
195	Les Helgeson	Native Fish Society. Provides testimony against SB 384 ( <b>EXHIBIT I</b> ). Believes that funding problems would not be solved by moving functions to ODFW and would discredit hours of volunteer work citizens have contributed towards watershed restoration.
250	Jean Underhill	Oregon Farm Bureau Federation. Provides testimony in support of SB 384.
275	Wilkenson	
	Rennie Ferris	MidCoast Watersheds Council. Submits testimony against SB 384 ( <b>EXHIBIT J</b> ) and states that OWEB provides a valuable service to protecting natural resources and watersheds.
370	Jim Myron	Governor's Office. Provides testimony against SB 384 ( <b>EXHIBIT K</b> ) and expresses concerns about the effects of disbanding OWEB.
<b>TAPE 21, B</b>		
003	Geoff Huntington	OWEB. Provides testimony against SB 384 ( <b>EXHIBIT L</b> ) and expresses concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost savings issues and streamlined bureaucracy</li> <li>• Focused collaboration and coordination of government agencies</li> <li>• Ability to leverage public dollars with private investments as an independent agency</li> <li>• Budget issues</li> </ul>
110	Sen. Beyer	Comments on the constitutionally mandated portion of the OWEB budget.
150	Chair Shields	Closes public hearing on SB 384 and adjourns meeting at 12:00 p.m.

## EXHIBIT SUMMARY

- A – SB 256, 256-1 amendments dated 2/18/03, staff, 1 p**
- B – SB 281, 281-1 amendments dated 2/17/03, staff, 1 p**
- C – SB 384, written testimony, T. Wolf, 1 p**
- D – SB 384, written testimony, J. O’Keeffe, 2 pp**
- E – SB 384, written testimony, H. Abraham, 3 pp**
- F – SB 384, written testimony, J. Martin, 2 pp**
- G – SB 384, written testimony, L. Hamilton, 2 pp**
- H – SB 384, written testimony, J. McDonald, 2 pp**
- I – SB 384, written testimony, L. Helgeson, 1 p**
- J – SB 384, written testimony, R. Ferris, 20 pp**

**K – SB 384, written testimony, J. Myron, 1 p**

**L – SB 384, written testimony, G. Huntington, 7 pp**

**The following testimony was presented without public testimony for SB 384**

**M – SB 384, written testimony, J. Heuser, 2 pp**