

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

March 3, 1999 Hearing Room 50

4:30 P.M. Tapes 61 - 62

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Gary George, Chair

Sen. Thomas Wilde, Vice-Chair

Sen. Tony Corcoran

Sen. Bill Fisher

MEMBER EXCUSED: Sen. Ted Ferrioli

Sen. Joan Dukes

STAFF PRESENT: Brad Harper, Administrator

Kristal Hatton-Nease, Administrative Support

MEASURES HEARD: SB 563 Public Hearing

Introductions of Committee Bills

SB 626 Public Hearing and Work Session

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.

TAPE/#	Speaker	Comments
TAPE 61, A		
005	Chair George	Convenes meeting at 4:43 p.m. Opens public hearing on SB 563.
<u>SB 563 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
017	Sen. Veral Tarno	Senate District 24. Testifies in support of SB 563. Says he sponsored SB 563 at the request of a constituent. Says the constituent is an avid fisherman. Adds SB

		563 came out of a meeting held in his district, which believed the commission needed new direction. States one member of the group suggested having members of the commission elected. Says the commission has done good things, but has also been involved in other projects, such as the Milltown Dam near Roseburg, Oregon.
061	Rep. Terry Thompson	House District 4. Says he shares Sen. Tarno's frustration involved with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife commissioners. Says he has sponsored a bill that would add one commissioner and would direct commissioners into specific areas so they can have more time to do a more thorough investigation to understand issues before them. Comments on the workload of commissioners. Says the commissioners should be streamlined into areas of expertise.
090	Sen. Corcoran	Asks if Rep. Thompson thinks the commission is already too political or if there is a problem with workload.
096	Rep. Thompson	Responds that depends on the issue. Comments on the Milltown Dam project discussed by Sen. Tarno. Says on low profile cases it is a problem of workload.
111	Sen. Corcoran	Asks if Rep. Thompson is in favor of separating the Fish and Wildlife Department.
114	Rep. Thompson	Replies he has no desire to separate the department. Suggests creating subcommittees within the department to enable commissioners to work in areas of expertise.
136	Rod Harder	Oregon Sportsmens Defense Fund. Testifies in opposition to SB 563. Gives reasons for the Oregon Sportsmens Defense Fund opposition.
162	Phil Donovan	Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association. Submits [EXHIBIT A] and testifies in opposition to SB 563. Says the Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association agrees with the intent of SB 563, but says this legislation would only serve to further politicize fish and wildlife issues.
174	Jim Myron	Conservation Director, Oregon Trout. Submits [EXHIBIT B] and testifies in opposition to SB 563. States Oregon Trout believes the elections of commissioners to the Fish and Wildlife Commission would be a mistake that would further politicize the commission. Adds it would make the commission's actions much more subject to interest group pressure. Says Oregon Trout supports the current method of choosing commissioners for the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission.
199	Doug Meyers	Trout Unlimited. Testifies in opposition of SB 563.
208	Jeff Feldner	Commissioner, Fish and Wildlife Commission. Testifies in opposition to SB 563. Expresses concern about having commission members participate in staggered election terms.

253	Sen. Corcoran	Asks how long Feldner has served on the Fish and Wildlife Commission and how much of a time commitment serving on the commission entails.
260	Feldner	Replies he has been a member of the Fish and Wildlife Commission for three years. Adds the time commitment is 1-2 days per month for meetings and that commissioners have a lot of homework to do between monthly meetings.
269	Sen. Corcoran	Says he admires Feldner's public service. Asks Feldner to comment on the level of expertise needed by commission members.
286	Feldner	Replies the commission set up a subcommittee that will deal with marine fisheries. Says Rep. Thompson, agency personnel, and himself agree this is a good approach.
308	Sen. Fisher	Asks if an elected commissioner would be more responsible for his decisions, in the eyes of his constituents.
314	Feldner	Replies that would be difficult to determine.
326	Sen. Fisher	Comments a public official may pay a higher price for his/her decisions.
332	Feldner	Agrees but says an appointed official can easily be fired if he/she is not doing their job.
335	Chair George	Thanks Feldner for his work on the commission.
<u>INTRODUCTION OF COMMITTEE BILLS</u>		
335	Brad Harper	Committee Administrator. Reads LC numbers of bills to be introduced: 3020, 3620, 3768, 3910.
345	Chair George	MOTION: Moves LC's: 3020, 3620, 3768, 3910 BE INTRODUCED as committee bills.
350		VOTE: 4-0 EXCUSED: 2 - Dukes, Ferrioli
	Chair George	Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED.
360	Chair George	Closes work session. Opens public hearing on SB 626.
<u>SB 626 PUBLIC HEARING</u>		

368	Harper	Explains SB 626 increases the maximum assessment that may be levied by the Oregon Sheep Commission. Says SB 626 is sponsored by the Oregon Sheep Growers Association and grants the Sheep Commission authority to assess up to five cents per pound on commercial wool sales, but that only applies to first sales. Adds that currently this assessment authority is limited to 1 and 1.5 cents per pound. States these funds are used by the commission to promote and otherwise support Oregon's sheep growing industry.
379	Richard Kosesan	Oregon Sheep Growers Association. Clarifies SB 626 was actually introduced at the request of the Oregon Sheep Commission. Testifies in support of SB 626.
404	Sen. Fisher	Asks if commission members are elected.
406	Kosesan	Replies commission members are appointed.
413	Clint Krebs	Chair, Oregon Sheep Commission. Explains that at a meeting in December members of the Oregon Sheep Growers Association voted in favor of increasing the assessment fee. Says Idaho's rate is an 8 cent per pound deduction, California's rate is a 6-cent deduction, and Utah's rate is between 2 and 5 cents. Explains one of the reasons for the need to increase the fee is because of the loss of national funding and promotions.
446	Reed Anderson	Brownsville, Oregon. Testifies in support of SB 626. Says he has been a commission member for six years. Adds the revenue from the increase in the assessment fees would help the commission.
TAPE 62, A		
014	Sen. Fisher	Asks how long it has been since there has been an increase in the assessment fee.
017	Kosesan	Answers since 1977.
020	Sen. Fisher	Asks how many pounds are currently sold.
021	Kosesan	Replies the sale of wool has been on a steady decline in recent years. Says wool prices have been low in recent years and that it is hard to gauge what the storage amount of wool is and what is the actual production.
<u>SB 626 WORK SESSION</u>		
040	Chair George	MOTION: Moves SB 626 to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation.
045		VOTE: 4-0

		EXCUSED: 2 - Dukes, Ferrioli
	Chair George	Hearing no objection, declares the motion CARRIED. SEN. FISHER will lead discussion on the floor.
052	Chair George	Closes work session on SB 626. Adjourns meeting at 5:24 p.m.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Kristal Hatton-Nease, Brad Harper,
Administrative Support Administrator

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A ñ SB 563, written testimony, Phil Donovan, 1 p.

B ñ SB 563, written testimony, Jim Myron, 1 p.

C - LC Drafts, Staff, 39 pp.