

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

February 18, 1997 Hearing Room D

8:30 AM Tapes 26-27

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Charles Starr, Chair

Rep. Terry Thompson, Vice-Chair

Rep. Dennis Luke

Rep. Ken Messerle

Rep. Kurt Schrader

Rep. Judith Uherbelau

Rep. Larry Wells

STAFF PRESENT:

Judith Gruber, Administrator

Linda Kowal, Administrative Support

MEASURE/ISSUES HEARD:

HB 2407 Public Hearing

HB 2369 Public Hearing and Work Session

SB 30 Public Hearing and Work session

SB 48 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 26, A		
006	Chair Starr	Opens public hearing on HB 2407 at 8:33 A.M.
<u>HB 2407 - PUBLIC HEARING</u>		

008	Rep. Thompson	Cites personal experience relating to the fishing industry. Speaks about "trip limits." Refers to pie chart (EXHIBIT A).
058	Rep. Thompson	Continues discussing pie chart, highlighting the disproportionate amount of funding that goes towards the salmon. Discusses the contents of the bill.
064	Rep. Luke	Asks for data on unfunded research.
066	Rep. Thompson	Cites hands-on experience with several projects.
075	Rep. Luke	Asks if any projects have gone unfunded.
078	Rep. Thompson	States that he doesn't have the data, but that the industry might.
081	Kay Brown	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Submits written materials (EXHIBIT B). Mentions a report by the Pacific Fishery Management Council citing needed research in the industry.
088	Rep. Thompson	Adds that the industry also has a list of areas needing research.
090	Rep. Uherbelau	Asks about programs currently being funded and what will be eliminated.
094	Ron Ingram	Deputy Director of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. States that the change would remove \$500,000-600,000 out of salmon programs. Mentions other effects of the bill.
124	Rep. Uherbelau	Asks what is to gain from the bill.
131	Ingram	Mentions where the bill fits in the governor's budget.
158	Brown	Notes that the bill would increase money given to the ground fish program. Describes the program.
167	Rep. Uherbelau	Speaks of the need for analysis on where the funds will do the most good.
175	Rep. Thompson	Refers to the pie chart, noting that the non-salmon fishing industries generate the most money and receive the least. Suggests that funding salmon is funding "a black hole."
192	Rep. Messerle	Mentions that the timing of the bill is bad with recent demands for salmon funding.
220	Rep. Thompson	Discusses the financial repercussions affecting the state because it decided not to fund rock fish research.
225	Brown	States that she can get the numbers relating to lost revenue from the rock fish industry.
227	Rep. Luke	Asks about the bill's sponsorship. Asks if there is existing law prohibiting the actions proposed by the bill.
230	Ingram	Asks that Ways and Means can place money anywhere because it comes from a general "pot."
241	Rep. Wells	Mentions that he is carrying HB 2121. Asks why HB 2407 and HB 2121 were not put together.

245	Ingram	Answers that HB 2121 reinstates the "program." Cites opposition to HB 2407 and gives reasons.
277	Rep. Messerle	Asks if the bill would "further jeopardize the state of Oregon with regards to the listing of Coho salmon."
282	Rep. Thompson	Answers no and adds that the bill would prevent other species from facing the problems of the Coho salmon.
290	Ingram	States that the bill will move funding from the salmon and that is why the governor and the agency oppose the bill.
307	Rep. Uherbelau	Asks about a potential compromise.
318	Rep. Thompson	States that he has no problem with the use of fishing licensing funds, but that funds generated specifically by the non-salmon fishing industries should go towards those same industries.
325	Ingram	Cites that the department and Rep. Thompson are working together on the details of the bill.
338	Rep. Schrader	Asks for total dollar figures relating to the industry.
344	Rep. Luke	Asks how money was distributed when salmon were going better.
354	Ingram	Answers that funding was handled the same way.
362	Rep. Luke	Asks if when salmon was generating more money if more money was going towards the other fishing industries.
370	Rep. Thompson	Answers that money has always been directed primarily towards salmon.
381	Ingram	Cites funding cuts for the department, stating that hatcheries have been preserved while marine programs and administration have been cut.
TAPE 27, A		
011	Rep. Messerle	Suggests that this issue be discussed with Mr. Stelle.
017	Ingram	Mentions "inadequate" research that has been done on groundfish.
020	Rep. Wells	Asks if the funds transferred by HB 2121 to the general fund potentially are to be used by HB 2407, or whether HB 2407 will need additional funds.
022	Ingram	Answers that \$2.4 million would go to the program under HB 2407 and that \$2.4 million is taken away from the program in the governor's budget.
041	Ingram	Mentions reasons for opposition to the bill.
049	Joe Rohleder	Representing Sport Fishing Groups. Draws distinction between commercial fishing industry and sports fishing industry. States that revenues generated from the two industries is approximately the same, and that the sports fishing industry is dependent on salmon.

083	Rep. Uherbelau	Asks how the witness feels about the bill.
085	Rohleder	Answers that personally he supports the bill.
093	Paul Hannaman	Representing the Oregon Trout Commission and West Coast Seafood Processors. States that the revenue derived from a particular source should be returned to that same source. Mentions poundage fees, and that particular industries should be funded with regard thereto. Notes the importance of the salmon industry and that it alone should be funded from the general fund.
110	Rep. Messerle	Asks about the priority of the Coho listing.
112	Hannaman	Answers that if it effected the Coho listing then the industry would wish to make another statement.
120	Chair Starr	Asks Rep. Thompson to continue working on the bill and states that the committee will re-examine the bill at a later date. Closes public hearing on HB 2407, opens public hearing on HB 2369.
<u>HB 2369 - PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
147	Rep. Thompson	Explains his motivation bringing forward HB 2369. Suggests that juvenile license fees are prohibitive and counter-productive.
171	Rep. Luke	Asks where the money will come from.
173	Rep. Thompson	Answers that if young people become interested in fishing, the money lost will be more than made up when they become adults and buy licenses.
176	Rep. Luke	Counters that if they don't buy licenses when they are adults then the money is lost.
178	Rep. Thompson	Concurs. States that that is a determination to be made by the committee.
185	Rep. Uherbelau	Asks if 45,000 juveniles have bought fishing licenses.
195	Rod Ingram	Deputy Director of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Submits written testimony (EXHIBIT C). States opposition to the bill. States that there will be 33,000 licenses lost and \$210,000 lost for the next biennium. Mentions that most of the money lost would take the form of federal funds lost.
225	Ingram	Cites that the department has a \$4.3 million shortfall this biennium, mostly on the "fish side." Mentions department cuts. Agrees with Rep. Thompson on the need to encourage young people to hunt and fish. Mentions that the single-parent family is the most detrimental factor in whether young people fish.
266	Ingram	Mentions programs designed to encourage fishing and hunting.
316	Rep. Uherbelau	Questions Rod Ingram's figures. States that seventeen year olds would pay adult prices. States that she would like to have specific information.

334	Rep. Luke	Clarifies that the figures cited are for the past biennium and not just a year.
347	Ingram	Clarifies that the figures represent 18 months not one year. States that the figures are documented. Discusses figures.
377	Rep. Uherbelau	Asks if a purchaser of a license has to reveal his/her age.
380	Ingram	Answers no for juvenile licenses.
385	Rep. Uherbelau	Asks about the process involving eighteen year olds.
390	Ingram	Answers that when someone is eighteen they have to buy a first-time license.
395	Chair Starr	Asks for figures relating that process.
400	Ingram	States that he will provide the committee with that information.
TAPE 26, B		
	Chair Starr	Closes public hearing on HB 2369, opens work session on HB 2369.
<u>HB 2369 - WORK SESSION</u>		
018	Rep. Luke	States that the concept is interesting but that he is troubled with the financial ramifications.
026	Rep. Thompson	Mentions that it is important to keep in mind all that the department does and its budgetary restraints, adding that he'll vote for the bill but understands opposition.
035	Rep. Messerle	States that he didn't understand the financial implications regarding federal funding. States that he won't vote for it but that it is a good idea.
041	Rep. Thompson	Offers to move the bill.
051	Chair Starr	Closes work session on HB 2369.
<u>SB 30 - PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
057	Steve Lane	Wildlife Program Manager with the Oregon State Police. Submits written testimony and materials (EXHIBIT D). Supports the bill. States that the bill corrects a "miscalculation" made during the '95 session concerning bail schedules.
090	Rep. Uherbelau	Refers to sections of the bill concerning SB 299 (1995).
097	Lane	States that SB 299 appears in Section A.
103	Rep. Uherbelau	Asks how to track the bill's changes to SB 299.
105	Lane	Answers that it will appear in Section C.

105	Rep. Uherbelau	Asks if the bill addresses all angling violations.
110	Lane	Answers that the bill addresses non-resident angling licenses.
115	Rep. Uherbelau	Questions whether the bill accomplishes its aims, citing confusion as to whether fish are considered wildlife.
125	Lane	Responds that fish are included in statute under wildlife.
130	Chair Starr	Calls next witness.
141	Rod Harder	Executive Director of Oregon Forestman's Defense Fund. Announces that he drafted the bill. Expresses satisfaction with the course of the public hearing.
144	Chair Starr	Closes public hearing on SB 30, opens work session on SB 30.
<u>SB 30 - WORK SESSION</u>		
150	Rep. LUKE:	MOTION: Moves SB 30 be sent to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation.
155		VOTE: 7-0 AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.
	Chair	The motion CARRIES. REP. UHERBELAU will lead discussion on the floor.
166	Chair Starr	Opens public hearing on SB 48.
<u>SB 48 - PUBLIC HEARING</u>		
180	Janis Collins	Communications Director for the Oregon Forest Resource Institute. Submits written testimony and materials(EXHIBIT E). Briefly explains the bill. Mentions the institute's funding and membership. States that the institute seeks to recover its costs on its project which serve the public. Notes that under the present situation the first person who requests information gets charged much more then following persons. States that such information should be set at a reasonable price. Notes that the attorney general drafted the bill and that other agencies already have identical authority.
228	Rep. Luke	Asks if the institute receives general fund money.
230	Collins	Answers that it doesn't.
232	Rep. Luke	Asks if the bill seeks to use member funds in a different way.
234	Collins	Answers yes so as to be consistent.
240	Rep. Luke	Asks why the legislature has authority over the institute.
242	Collins	

		Answers that the institute is funded by a tax on forest product producers.
248	Ray Wilkerson	Oregon Forest Industry Council. States that the council's members pay the taxes which support the institute. States their support for the bill. Adds that the institute is a quasi-agency.
256	Rep. Luke	Asks who pays for books which don't sell enough to recover costs.
260	Collins	Answers that it would come out of the institute's budget.
264	Rep. Luke	Asks if the institute generates more funds than it needs.
266	Collins	Answers no.
268	Wilkerson	Notes that the institute's budget is set and needs approval by State Board of Forestry.
271	Rep. Luke	Asks if there revenue to make up for costs.
280	Wilkerson	Cites reserves that would cover losses.
282	Rep. Luke	Answers that such losses would never have occurred before this bill. Reiterates the question.
292	Collins	Mentions materials distributed at no costs.
301	Rep. Luke	Clarifies that losses would come out of the budget for materials distributed for free.
305	Rep. Uherbelau	Asks for the portion of the harvest tax that goes towards the institute.
311	Wilkerson	Responds that about a quarter of the tax dollars goes towards the institute.
318	Rep. Uherbelau	Asks if the institute would need less of the harvest tax with this bill.
320	Collins	Answers that such projects would only occur every three years or so, as the need arose.
326	Rep. Messerle	Asks if it is a commodity group.
329	Collins	Responds yes.
331	Rep. Messerle	States that commodity groups have to have a contingency fund. Notes that the institute is industry-financed seeking to make their dollars go farther.
344	Rep. Luke	Notes that the harvest tax affects the cost of housing, citing the costs to consumers.
363	Rep. Messerle	Asks if the institute uses the revenue council to collect additional fees to pay for educational purposes.
374	Wilkerson	Answers yes, stating that the institute is "close to the commodity model."
383	Rep. Uherbelau	Notes that the harvest tax is used for more than one program. Asks who decides how the revenue is distributed.
388	Wilkerson	Answers that the legislature has a major role, adding that rates depend on use and are decided by the institute.

395	Chair Starr	Closes public hearing on SB 48, opens work session on SB 48.
<u>SB 48 - WORK SESSION</u>		
400	Rep. THOMPSON:	MOTION: Moves SB 48 be sent to the floor with a DO PASS recommendation.
410		VOTE: 7-0 AYE: In a roll call vote, all members present vote Aye.
	Chair	The motion CARRIES. CHAIR STARR will lead discussion on the floor.
420	Chair Starr	Adjourns meeting.

Submitted By, Reviewed By,

Linda Kowal, Judith Gruber,

Administrative Support Administrator

Transcribed By,

Coben Tistadt,

Administrative Support

EXHIBIT SUMMARY

A - HB 2407, pie chart, Rep. Thompson, 1 p.

B - HB 2407, written testimony, Kay Brown, 2 pp.

C - HB 2369, written testimony, Rod Ingram, 3 pp.

D - SB 30, written testimony and materials, Steve Lane, 7 pp.

E - SB 48, written testimony and materials, Janis Collins, 6 pp.