

Hello, my name is _____, I am a constituent of yours from _____
(City/County).

I'd like to talk to you about the vital role hunting plays in the conservation of all wildlife, the importance of good governance, sound process and what is currently at stake.

There are currently close to 1 Million hunters and anglers in Washington State and last year alone we contributed over 92 million dollars to conservation through license fees and excise taxes on hunting and angling equipment. This is in addition to the amount that we pay into the general fund through sales, property, and other taxes.

Hunting is a way for people to take an active role in the natural world, and is an integral component of sustainable and effective wildlife conservation.

As you know, the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission is comprised of 9 members who represent various user groups and set harvest objectives and regulations for the Department of Fish and Wildlife based on the recommendations of department staff and biologists.

In recent years a few members of the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission have deviated from that mission, violated their mandate and multiple RCWs, ignored the guidance and recommendations of WDFW staff on several occasions, and have established policy based on social pressure from special interest groups in lieu of accepted science.

If left unchecked this will effectively undo years of hard-won conservation successes. Managing fish and wildlife populations this way will result in wild swings between policy objectives, leaving the public confused and at-risk of unknowingly violating ever-changing regulations, as well as wildlife suffering due to lack of strategic direction by the Department.

I ask you to consider outdoor recreation – particularly hunting and fishing – when voting on the budget, nominees to state commissions, and legislation that impacts fish and wildlife habitat and management.