



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA

August 5, 2025

Governor Bob Ferguson
Office of the Governor
Post Office Box 40002
Olympia, Washington 99504

Dear Governor Ferguson,

I'm writing to request that your office initiate an investigation into the conduct of members of the Washington State Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission). As you are aware, documents produced pursuant to recent public disclosure requests call the conduct of several Commissioners into question. I have reviewed a sufficient number of these documents to believe further investigation is warranted.

RCW 43.06.070 provides the Governor the authority to "remove from office any state officer appointed by him or her not liable to impeachment, for incompetency, misconduct, or malfeasance in office." It is this authority that ultimately provides accountability for the Commission.

The work of the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is controversial, with public opinion on our decisions often divided. Our ability to meaningfully serve the public in this environment requires trust in the Commission and that they have integrity in their governance and decision making. It is simply not reasonable to expect that level of trust under the cloud of uncertainty created by the current controversy. Therefore, I am requesting an independent investigation be conducted to provide you with the data necessary to inform your judgment on exercising your authority to remove members of the Commission.

I know this is a big ask. Your review and appropriate action would demonstrate the standard of accountability necessary to allow WDFW to maintain a level of service that the public expects and deserves.

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I stand ready to assist.

Sincerely,

Kelly Susewind
Director

cc: WDFW Commissioners