



American Rivers
Rivers Connect Us

February 10, 2012

Representative Jules Bailey
Representative Vic Gilliam
Co-Chairs, House Committee on Energy, Environment and Water
900 Courthouse St., NE, Room 453
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: House Bill 4101

Dear Co-Chair Bailey, Co-Chair Gilliam, Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express American Rivers' strong opposition to HB 4101 and urge you to oppose it. American Rivers is the leading organization working to protect and restore the nation's rivers and streams. Rivers connect us to each other, nature, and future generations. Since 1973, American Rivers has fought to preserve these connections, helping protect and restore more than 150,000 miles of rivers through advocacy efforts, on-the-ground projects, and the annual release of *America's Most Endangered Rivers*TM. Headquartered in Washington, DC, American Rivers has offices across the country and more than 100,000 supporters, members, and volunteers nationwide, including many in Oregon. Since 1992, the Northwest office of American Rivers has been working to restore the region's once magnificent salmon and steelhead runs. Much of this work has focused on improving condition in the Columbia and Snake rivers and their tributaries. American Rivers has members across Oregon who care deeply about our rivers and want to ensure their resilience for future generations.

HB 4101 would weaken key protections for numerous Columbia River salmon and steelhead runs currently listed under the Endangered Species Act, undermining the extensive restoration efforts ongoing in the region to recover these runs. In addition, it threatens the health of key commercial and recreation fishing industries that rely on our salmon and steelhead runs. Poor management of our water resources has already cost these industries a significant numbers of jobs.

- HB 4101 weakens Oregon's laws protecting our invaluable Columbia River salmon and steelhead.
- HB 4101 jeopardizes recovery efforts to restore imperiled Columbia River fish.

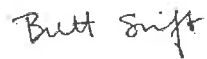
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- HB 4101 threatens the jobs and numerous economic benefits provided by a healthy Columbia River.
- HB 4101 marginalizes the economic and cultural value of healthy fisheries in the Columbia Basin
- HB 4101 is not a common sense strategy for creating new jobs. Rather, it is a direct threat to the health of Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead runs, and the longstanding contribution that recreational and commercial fisheries provide to the Oregon economy.

Do not allow this rollback of existing protections for imperiled Columbia River salmon and steelhead and the jobs that rely on those fisheries. We urge the House Committee on Energy, Environment and Water to reject HB 4101.

Sincerely,



Brett Swift
Northwest Regional Director

Cc: House Committee on Energy, Environment and Water Members: Deborah Boone, Co-Vice Chair; Wayne Krieger, Co-Vice Chair; Cliff Bentz; Alissa Keny-Guyer; Jim Thompson; Brad Witt
Governor Kitzhaber's Natural Resources Advisor, Richard Whitman