

MEASURE: HB 4101  
EXHIBIT: 40  
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SUBMITTED BY: Lauren Goldberg



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February 14, 2012

House Energy Environment and Water Committee  
900 Court St. NE  
Room 453  
Salem, OR 97301

*Via Email*

**RE: Protect the Columbia River – Oppose HB 4101**

Dear Honorable Representatives,

Columbia Riverkeeper is urging you to oppose House Bill 4101, a bill that would undermine key protections for struggling Columbia River salmon and steelhead and threaten more abundant runs which support jobs, economic activity, and food production throughout the region. Columbia Riverkeeper is a nonprofit organization with a mission of protecting the Columbia's water quality and all life connected to it, from the headwaters to the Pacific. Many of Columbia Riverkeeper's members live, work, and recreate in Oregon and along the Columbia River. House Bill 4101 raises significant concerns for anyone concerned about water quality, salmon recovery, and jobs.

While taxpayers invest hundreds of millions of dollars in salmon recovery, this bill directly undercuts the regional effort to restore abundant salmon runs. HB 4101 also undermines the collaborative efforts of a coalition of Umatilla Basin water users to appropriate available winter water from the Columbia River for the Umatilla Basin Aquifer Recovery Project. Moreover, the bill marginalizes the economic and cultural value of healthy fisheries in the Columbia Basin. We urge you to oppose this shortsighted bill that will rollback existing protections for Oregon's imperiled Columbia River salmon and steelhead.

Sincerely,

Lauren Goldberg  
Staff Attorney, Columbia Riverkeeper