



MEASURE: HB 4098  
EXHIBIT: 15  
2012 SPECIAL SESSION H AG & NAT RES.  
DATE: 2/14/2012 PAGES: 1  
SUBMITTED BY: Tom Wolf

## TU Celebrates 50 Years of Protecting Cold, Clean, Fishable Water.

### Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

Feb. 14, 2012

Co-chair Clem, Co-chair Esquivel, committee members-

My name is Tom Wolf, chair of Oregon Council Trout Unlimited, here representing Trout Unlimited, the largest cold water conservation group in the country. Trout Unlimited is opposed to HB 4098.

Before I go into the reasons we oppose HB 4098, I just want to mention that TU is not opposed to timber harvest. That is part of the multiple uses of forests which TU supports. On a personal note my family, for 5 generations, has been in the timber harvest business at some level. My grandfather Casey, who taught me how to hunt and fish plus having a major impact on my life, started in logging industry at the age of 12 and was a logger for over 50 years. I understand the history of logging in Oregon.

A major reason that TU objects to HB 4098 is that there is already a good process to decide timber harvest levels on state forest. The Department of Forestry staff works on a harvest plan for state forests in a specific district or state forest. There are multiple chances during this process for timber industry, conservation community, hunters, fisherman, hikers, mountain bikers, cities, counties and concerned citizens to give input. The Board of Forestry then takes all the input from the public and then makes a decision on approving staff recommendations for state forest or district management plans. It is a process which always allows all the stakeholders have a say in state forest management- even if they don't necessarily like the finished product. HB 4098 would take away the public process and not allow stakeholder input. This would be a serious breach of the public process so important to our agencies managing our natural resources.

All these agencies have boards or commissions overseeing them. The Board of Forestry has 7 members, representing a cross section of interest groups. Members of the Board of Forestry are dedicated individuals who make a serious commitment of 4 to 8 years contributing to important decisions concerning management of our state forests. Passing HB 4098 would take the power of making these decisions out of the hands of these board members- and would bypass the expertise of the Department of Forestry staff.

So, in conclusion, HB 4098 would bypass the very important public process in making state forest management plans in the Department of Forestry. It would make the important economic, recreational and social uses of the forest for activities such as fishing, hunting, hiking, biking and other of secondary concern and affect the use of our state forests for thousands of Oregonians. Others will touch on the reasons that recreationally, economically and environmentally this is a bad bill. But I just want to end by saying we have a good process already in place in the Department and Board of Forestry. Let's not limit or destroy that process- please vote no on HB 4098.

Sincerely,

Tom Wolf, chair  
Oregon Council Trout Unlimited