



NATIVE FISH SOCIETY

Advancing the Recovery of Native, Wild Fish in Their Homewaters

April 3, 2013

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION TO HB 2396A

The Native Fish Society is a regional fish conservation organization with several hundred members dedicated to the protection and restoration of wild native fish and the habitats that sustain them.

The intent of this bill, to require a removal permit from the Department of State Lands before large wood can be removed from streams, is a good one and something that the Native Fish Society has supported for several legislative sessions.

Unfortunately, the exemptions in section 5 of the bill provide an avenue for most people to avoid the need to get a permit before removing logs from streams. These exemptions seem to undermine the whole intent of the bill.

During the one hearing in the House, the Native Fish Society raised concerns about the exemptions and the City of Portland offered several positive amendments to improve the bill, but they were not considered.

We encourage the Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to consider amendments to section 5 of the bill that would limit exemptions just to the danger to human life and real property as well as the passage of boats in streams. We would be happy to assist in the development of those amendments. With these changes to section 5, the Native Fish Society can support the bill.

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