



NATIVE FISH SOCIETY

Advancing the Recovery of Native, Wild Fish in Their Homewaters

April 4, 2013

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

STATEMENT IN OPPOSITON TO HB 3437

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 fish and wildlife resources of Oregon belong to all citizens, not just to the small segment of the population who happen to enjoy utilizing those resources. This public ownership of wildlife resources is reflected in the existing charge to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission expressed in ORS 496.090 (1) (6)"

"All members of the commission shall represent the public interest of the state and make decisions affecting the wildlife resources of the state for the benefit of those resources."

To require all members of the commission to be licensed users of wildlife resources would disenfranchise the 80% of Oregon's population who do not fish or hunt but are also co-owners of our valuable wildlife heritage.

The members of the Native Fish Society, the majority of whom do enjoy utilizing Oregon's fish and wildlife resources, believe this bill is a bad idea and we strongly oppose it.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on HB 3437.

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The Native Fish Society
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