



**Testimony in Support of SB 401-5
WaterWatch of Oregon
April 15, 2013**

Founded in 1985, WaterWatch is a non-profit river conservation group dedicated to the protection and restoration of natural flows in Oregon's rivers. WaterWatch works to ensure that enough water is protected in Oregon's rivers to sustain fish, wildlife, recreation and other public uses of Oregon's rivers, lakes and streams. We also work for balanced water laws and policies. WaterWatch has members across Oregon who care deeply about our rivers, their inhabitants and the effects of water laws and policies on these resources.

WaterWatch supports SB 401-5.

WaterWatch supports legislation to clarify and strengthen the existing ban on motorized mining activities within designated scenic waterways. This activity is fundamentally incompatible with waterways designated under ORS Chapter 390.

Further, WaterWatch supports requiring the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to fulfill its statutory obligation to study and report on river segments for possible inclusion in the state scenic waterway system. The river and stream segments included in the dash 5 amendments are worthy of study and, after study, should be included in Oregon's scenic waterway system.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on SB 401-5.

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