



# NATIVE FISH SOCIETY

*Advancing the Recovery of Native, Wild Fish in Their Homewaters*

March 1, 2013

## **STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF SB 425**

### **TO THE**

### **SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

The Native Fish Society is a regional native fish conservation organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of wild native fish populations in the Pacific Northwest. Our several hundred members work at the local, state and federal levels to advocate for programs and policies that implement this important mission.

The Native Fish Society supports the passage of SB 425 and we would like to thank our friends at WaterWatch of Oregon for bringing this issue before the Oregon Legislature for consideration.

SB 425 would eliminate a very significant loophole in the water right transfer statutes and would assure that when there are no instream water rights in place to protect fish and aquatic life, the Water Resources Department would have to at least give some consideration to the environmental needs of the water body in question.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this important issue and we hope that you will seriously consider the problem that this bill would fix.

Bill Bakke  
Director of Science and Conservation