



Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

Feb.18,2015

Oregon House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

Chair Witt and Committee members-

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Oregon Council Trout Unlimited to urge a “No” vote on HB 2503. Trout Unlimited feels that this bill, written with the best of intentions, would set a precedent that would have unfortunate consequences.

Decisions about regulating hunting and fishing gear should be made by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission, with input from ODFW staff and the public. The Commissioners are tasked to make these decisions in a public manner with discussion and testimony from different stakeholders. The language of HB 2503 takes away the ability of ODFW to have public discussions on this issue and others.

TU realizes that this bill was written on a specific issue, the use of lead, but the language of the bill could be used for a variety of OTHER issues which ODFW works on and binds the ODFW Commission’s ability to deal with these issues. And the lead issue should be decided within the confines of ODFW and it’s Commission. That is the proper channel, not the Oregon Legislature.

Boards and Commissions for Natural Resource agencies are specifically charged with making decisions about issues that concern their agency’s program area. HB 2503 takes some of the power of the ODFW Commission out of their hands.

The concerns about the use of lead for hunting and fishing should be discussed in front of public eyes at an ODFW Commission meeting, with input from stakeholder groups in a task force or in testimony. The best available science provided by staff and others, needs to be part of that discussion also.

So, in summary, Trout Unlimited respectfully asked committee members to vote “NO” on HB 2503 and leave the decisions on various issues in the hands of the ODFW Commission.

Respectfully,

Tom Wolf,

Executive Director

Oregon Council Trout Unlimited