



NATIVE FISH SOCIETY

Advancing the Recovery of Native, Wild Fish in Their Homewaters

March 12, 2015

STATEMENT TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES HB 3197

The Native Fish Society is a regional wild fish advocacy organization with over seven hundred members. Our mission is to protect and restore wild native fish and the habitats that sustain them.

We oppose HB 3197 for several reasons, but primarily, the bill is completely unnecessary and will be time consuming and costly to administer. The nomination process proposed in the bill is cumbersome and would severely limit the pool of future candidates for the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission just at a critical time in the history of the commission and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The process for selecting members of the commission is currently an open public process. Anyone with an interest in serving on the commission can make that interest known by filing a form with the governor's office. The governor can also select people that she would like to see on the commission and encourage them to apply. There are currently over two hundred boards and commissions in Oregon selected under the existing process and it has worked well for many years.

This bill would convert this open public process into one controlled by special interest groups who do not represent nor are accountable to the public's interest in the conservation and use of public resources for the public good. To single out the Fish and Wildlife Commission for this industry driven selection process would be a mistake.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our opposition to HB 3197.

Bill M. Bakke
Founder—Science and Conservation Director

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