



Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

March 11, 2015

HB 3197

Chair Witt and committee members-

I am Tom Wolf, Executive Director of the Oregon Council Trout Unlimited, representing the 2700 Oregon members of the largest cold-water conservation group in the nation.

I am here to state Trout Unlimited's reluctant opposition to HB 3197.

Certainly TU recognizes the frustration that has happened in the delays on selecting new ODFW Commissioners for open seats. We sympathize with that frustration. But HB 3197 is not the answer to this problem.

The concerns TU has about HB 3197 are as follows.

1. It dilutes the ability of a large section of the public to be involved in the process.
2. As currently written, the 5 members of the proposed nominating committee come mainly from the hunting and industry driven groups. It does not represent the broad public interests.
3. This proposed nominating process will be cumbersome and awkward. And it could mean extra expenses.
4. It could limit the pool of available candidates.
5. The current selection process has been used for over 200 state boards for many years. It has been working well and shouldn't be messed with.
6. There is a new Governor and we should give her a chance, within her administration, to move forward in nominating 2 new ODFW commissioners.

So in conclusion, Trout Unlimited suggests that HB 3197 is not necessary. Let us fix and improve the process we already have. Let us work with our new Governor. Let's not destroy and revamp what we already have to install a new system for only one Commission.

Sincerely,

Tom Wolf,

Executive Director

Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

