



Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

March 17,2015

SB 202-Trout Unlimited supports

Chair Edwards and Committee members-

I am Tom Wolf, Executive Director of the Oregon Council Trout Unlimited, here representing the 2700 members of Trout Unlimited here in Oregon.

Trout Unlimited supports HB 202 which would establish the Oregon Academy of Science as a nonprofit corporation to carry out the important function of an independent science team to deal with science questions that come up in the Legislature or in Natural Resource agency issues. In the past the IMST has served that function but with its demise, SB 202 would create a new task force which would carry on the work previously done by the IMST.

In all the natural resource issues which are worked on by the Oregon Legislature and our state NR agencies, it is important to have a unbiased scientific body that can review and make recommendations on future policy. SB 202 creates this independent science advisory group. This builds on the tradition of the IMST and moves the concept forward in an important way.

Trout Unlimited also supports the -1 amendment which enhances SB 202 and makes it more effective.

In conclusion, Trout Unlimited supports SB 202 and urges the committee to pass it on. It is important that science work on our state natural resource issues can be carried out with the knowledge that there is an independent science review team available to make critique and suggestion so that, in all Oregon natural resource decisions, we can rest assure that the best possible science was applied.

Sincerely

Tom Wolf,

Executive Director

Oregon Council Trout Unlimited