



Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

March 24,2015

Co-chair Devlin, Co-chair Rayfield and Committee members-

I am Tom Wolf, Executive Director of the Oregon Council Trout Unlimited. I am here representing the 2800 members of TU in Oregon. Trout Unlimited supports the Department of Environmental Quality's budget request, HB 5018.

Our main concern is that programs which deal with water quality programs be funded. All the positions that deal with trying to solve water quality issues are important. DEQ is the lead agency in Oregon on key water issues such as temperature. With the destruction of habitat and climate change, the stream temperatures in Oregon have gone up over the state to some alarming figures. Some streams get into the over 70 degrees in the summer. Salmon and trout's maximum comfort zone temperature is 68 degrees so these high temperatures can stress them out and lead to mortality.

DEQ's role to developing plans to lower stream temperatures and deal with other critical water quality issues. It is very important that they receive all the funding they request for these key water quality issues.

Trout Unlimited also supports POPs 121,123 and 136. These are key staff positions for critical needs for the department.

So, in conclusion, Trout Unlimited urges the support of DEQ's proposed 2015-17 budget, HB 5018, and that you pass this fully funded DEQ request onto the full Ways and Means. For the future needs of Oregon's waters, it is the right thing to continue to fund.

Sincerely,

Tom Wolf,

Executive Director

Oregon Council Trout Unlimited