



Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

March 26,2015

TU supports SB 882

Chair Edwards and Committee members-

My name is Tom Wolf, Executive Director of the Oregon Council Trout Unlimited. I am here representing the 2800 members of Trout Unlimited in Oregon.

Trout Unlimited supports SB 882, which would require the Oregon Department of Agriculture to adopt rules which would prohibit application of pesticides containing nitro-group neonicotinoids. Trout Unlimited cares about this because there is scientific evidence to show that neonicotinoids, when getting into stream ecosystems, can have a negative impact on aquatic macro-invertebrates.

Several scientific studies released recently show that neonicotinoids can have major impact on macro-invertebrates such as caddis, mayflies, stoneflies and other important food sources for our freshwater native fish species and their ecosystems. In harming this food source it will cause decline in salmon and trout populations, thus raising havoc with the overall ecosystem in rivers, streams and lakes. This not only will have a negative impact environmentally but will lessen recreational opportunities and the overall economic benefit that fishing brings to rural communities.

I have attached 2 very good scientific studies which outline the negative impact of the neonicotinoids recently publish. They spell out the problems with these pesticides better than I could explain in my short testimony.

In conclusion, Trout Unlimited supports SB 882 and urges it's passage. We are willing to see amendments in order to deal with concerns of other groups. But it is important that this bill, in some form, pass so that the very specific problem of neonicotinoids on aquatic ecosystems can be addressed.

Sincerely

Tom Wolf,

Executive Director

Oregon Council Trout Unlimited