



Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

April 12, 2015

Trout Unlimited supports SB 952

Chair Edwards and Committee members-

I am here today representing the 2800 members of Trout Unlimited here in Oregon in our support of SB 952. SB 952 would establish a Task Force to look at future funding options for all Oregon Natural Resource agencies.

In 2010 I was asked to address a symposium of young college leaders on a topic of my choice, on what I considered the most important issue facing healthy stream watersheds and the native fish which dwell there. Much to the organizers surprise, I chose to talk on the funding of natural resource agencies as the biggest issue we face. My point was that without sufficient funding for natural resource agencies and their staff, we would not have the ability to fully face all the future natural resource issues. I challenged the young people attending to come up with ideas on how we do that. It lead to a very interesting and productive session.

I, and Trout Unlimited, believe that an important issue we face in this state is fully funding Oregon's natural resource agencies, which is challenged by lower amounts of lottery fund, smaller amounts of money coming from current fee programs, more demand for agency resources and a lack of general fund money available for these agencies. It is a major problem I see as our natural resource agencies are required to do more with less. It is something that this state needs to address in order to ensure the future of Oregon for those who enjoy our natural resources for recreation and for those who use them for economic benefit.

SB 952 is a good start by creating a task force to look at what we can do to fund these agencies in the future and look at ways to creatively make these agencies more responsive to their mission-protecting Oregon's natural resources for future Oregonians.

SB 952 is a needed bill and a good concept which needs to move forward. Trout Unlimited urges this committee to pass this bill with a resounding "Yes" vote and move it forward. The future of Oregon's beautiful and abundant natural resources makes this bill a necessity.

Tom Wolf,

Executive Director

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