



Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

May 5, 2015

Trout Unlimited testimony in support of SB 209

Chair Witt and Committee members-

I am here today representing the 2800 Oregon members of Trout Unlimited, the largest cold water conservation group in the United States. Our mission is to protect and restore native salmonids and their habitat.

An issue of great concern to TU is the spread of invasive species into our waters and watersheds. Of particular interest is aquatic invasive species such as quagga and zebra mussels. This species, if they get into waterways, can cover a stream choking out native macro-invertebrate populations. They also play havoc with city water systems and dams.

We have passed laws in 2009 and 2011, in a bi-partisan effort, which created boat inspection stations and made it mandatory for boat owners to stop at them. This has been a great step in a drive to keep these harmful invasive species out of Oregon.

Now, TU is here to support SB 209, which would make the hiring of a coordinator for the Oregon Invasive Species Council mandatory. This is a very important concept because the coordinator of the Oregon Invasive Species Council is the key driver in what the OISC accomplishes. This will help insure that the Council continues to improve and grown in their ability to deal with invasive species here in Oregon.

TU thinks that Oregon has made several good steps and passed many good bills in our struggle with invasive species. Our next step is to strengthen the Oregon Invasive Species Council, a major tool in our continuing battle against invasive species, which cause major environmental and economic harm.

Passing SB 209 is a good step towards improving the Oregon Invasive Species Council and making it a more effective tool in the arsenal to combat the menace invasive species can be. Trout Unlimited urges you to pass this bill out of your committee with "Do Pass" recommendation.

Sincerely,

Tom Wolf,

Executive Director

Oregon Council Trout Unlimited