



Native Fish Society

813 7th Street, Suite 200 A
Oregon City, OR 97045
503.344.4218

Conserving biological diversity of native fish and protecting wild populations

February 3, 2016

STATEMENT TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RURAL COMMUNITIES, LAND USE AND WATER
ON HB 4012

The Native Fish Society is a regional fish conservation organization focused on the protection and restoration of wild native fish and their habitats. Our organization has worked for over twenty years to implement this vision. We appreciate this opportunity to comment on HB 4012.

Water storage projects can have negative effects on streamflows and water temperatures. The public is benefited by undisturbed landscapes, healthy streams and sustainable populations of native fish. While some areas of the state could benefit from the storage of excess streamflows during times of the year when the water is available, new storage facilities must be developed in an environmentally sensitive manner that provide public benefits for both instream and consumptive uses.

The Native Fish Society is not opposed to the development of new water storage facilities as long as the Water Resources Department determines that water is available for that purpose and they are consistent with the policies contained in ORS 536.238 (Policy on Water Storage Facilities). They would also need to be multi-purpose facilities that comply with all of the provisions of Oregon's fish screening and fish passage laws.

We do not support the establishment of the proposed Water Storage Fund when the Water Supply Development Account already exists in ORS 541.656. That fund should be the recipient of any lottery bonds or other funding made available should this bill pass.

Contacts:

Bill Bakke, NFS Science Advisor, 503.246.5890

Jin Myron, NFS Lobbyist, 503.819.5589