



Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

February 2, 2016

Support of HB 4113-

Chair Clem and Committee members-

I am Tom Wolf, Executive Director of the Oregon Council Trout Unlimited, and I am here today representing our RU members, who dedicated volunteers focusing on protecting wild fish and their healthy watersheds. I am here today to share Trout Unlimited's support for HB 4113, which would create a Drought Emergency Task force.

Whatever camp you are in, whether it is the one which believes we are in massive climate change because of excessive carbon emissions or this is just a normal climatic cycle we are going through, there has been a period of drought occurring in Oregon and across the nation. Even though this has been a fairly wet year so far, we can't just trust that this will be the pattern in subsequent years or even later on this year. Drought, especially in Eastern Oregon, has always been a part of our history.

That is why it is important that this task force, to deal with ongoing drought problem is so important. And it is important that within the task force all stakeholder voices who are concerned about the drought be included-whether it be from industry, farming, ranching, conservation or cities. A task force composed of multiple stakeholders will be able to create rules that can represent the interests of Oregonians.

So from a healthy watershed and wild fish concern, Trout Unlimited feels HB 4113 is critical to pass. But for all Oregonians, TU believes that HB 4113 is a very important piece of legislation and we urge the passage of the bill.

Sincerely,

Tom Wolf,

Executive Director

Oregon Council Trout Unlimited