



Feb. 22, 2016

Trout Unlimited letter of support for SJM 201

Chair Witt and Committee members-

I am here representing the 3200 members of Trout Unlimited here in Oregon and our 160,000 members nationwide. Trout Unlimited is this country's largest cold-water conservation group, with our members working in many different ways to restore and project coldwater watersheds and the fish, especially salmonids, that reside there.

One of the biggest threats facing our watersheds and our trout/salmon populations is the invasion of aquatic invasive species. Scientific studies show that aquatic invasive species, such as New Zealand mud snails, quagga mussels, zebra mussels, etc, present perhaps the biggest threat to stream systems. These species have coated streams, intake valves, water pipes and dam water systems in many parts of the United States. This is causing vast ecological damage and millions of dollars of economic loss. One of the best things we have done in Oregon is create, via a bill passed in 2009, ODFW managed boat inspection stations which prevent this invasive species entering Oregon waters.

SJM 201 asks for money necessary to prevent aquatic species on the Columbia River system. This money is important to protect the largest water system in the Pacific Northwest. So Trout Unlimited supports SJM 201 and asks for your "Yes" vote in passing this very important bill.

Tom Wolf, Executive Director
Oregon Council Trout Unlimited