



Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

Feb. 25,2016

Trout Unlimited testimony in opposition to SB 1584

Chair Rosenbaum and committee members-

I am here today representing the 3200 members of Trout Unlimited here in Oregon and the 160,000 nationwide. Trout Unlimited is the nation's largest cold water conservation group whose members are dedicated, as volunteers, to protecting and restoring watersheds and the fish and wildlife species which dwell there.

I want to state Trout Unlimited's opposition to SB 1584, which would overturn a recent Court of Appeals decision and compromise worked out by stakeholder groups who developed a compromise on this issue in 2005. SB 1584 would ignore this compromise and would exempt certain municipalities from reviews which ensure fish persistence and from requirements to conserve water. This bill would ignore the need for our important fish species to meet their instream flow needs. Water needs for towns and cities is important but a compromise was carefully reached in 2005 that balanced the needs of water for cities, agriculture and fish.

SB 1584 is a blatant attempt to sidestep this compromise agreement and ignore the importance of salmon and trout to Oregon, ecologically, economically and recreationally. With the drought years we have had and with climate change looming as a major threat to salmonid habitat and waters, we need to work on consensus to make sure everyone meets their water needs. SB 1584 ignores this consensus process and should not move forward.

Trout Unlimited urges a "No" vote on SB 1574 because this bill sets a dangerous precedence and should not move forward.

Tom Wolf,

Executive Director

Oregon Council Trout Unlimited