



March 13,2017

### Trout Unlimited testimony in opposition to HB 3232

Chair Clem and Committee members-

I am Tom Wolf, here representing Trout Unlimited, whose mission is to restore and protect native wild cold water species like trout and salmon. In working on this mission, one key goal is to restore native salmonids to habitat and ranges that they once inhabited but no long do now because of habitat destruction, invasive species and unwise hatchery stocking policies. I think this is a worthy goal, to reestablish native fish species to their native range.

Therefore, Trout Unlimited is opposing HB 3232, which would set up language that could limit the ability of agencies to re-introduce native fish from areas they have been extirpated from. For example, it would make re-introduction of bull trout back into their native range in Oregon more problematic. As I read the language of HB 3232, this puts unneeded and unnecessary language into statue.

This is another point TU would like to make-why is HB 3232 necessary? ODFW already, as I understand, has the authority to do the measures prescribed in HB 3232. If ODFW already can deal with re-introduction of native species into their original habitat and already does it as part of their mission, HB 3232 is not needed.

As someone who has been working on native fish issues for 25 years, one of the truly remarkable things I have seen is re-introduction of Oregon native fish species into their original habitat in the state. For example, ODFW, with help from Trout Unlimited, has re-introduced bull trout back into the Clackamas River basin. This has been a long public process, using good data and scientific studies, that the language of HB 3232 would have interfered with or even prevented.

In closing, Trout Unlimited feels that HB 3232 is a bill created with uncertain language, undefined goals, a vague purpose and is not necessary as ODFW already has the ability to guide re-introduction of native fish and wildlife into parts of our state. Please do not pass HB 3232 out of this committee.

