



March 28,2017

### Trout Unlimited testimony in support of HB 3226

Chair Clem and Committee members-

My name is Tom Wolf, here representing the members of Trout Unlimited, this nation's largest cold-water conservation group. Our members in Oregon and across the nation are working hard to restore and protect the habitat of our native wild cold-water fish populations. An important issue for TU volunteers is adequate protection for riparian forest areas. This is why Trout Unlimited is here to testify in support of HB 3226.

There has or will be a lot of testimony in support of HB 3226 speaking in scientific terms. That is why I would like to make this testimony more personal.

One of my 3 greatest heroes was my grandfather Casey Jones. Casey was born in the Fall City area of Oregon in 1898 but his family moved to Vernonia shortly after that. In 1910, at the age of 12, Casey started working for a timber harvesting company as a "whistle punk". He then moved up to "choker setter" and eventually became a "rigging man", who sets up the rigging lines that bring out the logs and takes care of any problems which arise. He spent 53 years working in the woods and loved almost every moment of it. And in an occupation of strong, rugged men, he especially stood out for his toughness and strength.

I spent my teen and early 20's working summers working with Casey at Teufel's Holly company. We weeded holly, harvested hay, cleared woodlands and whatever else need to be done. It was a great time even though the work was hard. Casey became my hero-and more than that, my best friend. He taught me how to fish, hunt, swear, and other skills. He also broke down my extreme shyness and taught me how to talk to people-I wouldn't be able to talk to your committee today without him.

During our time together, we talked often about the outdoors and what was happening to them. Even though Casey loved logging, he began to realize and that there were many negative impacts done by the logging industry. He saw how this impacted the trout streams we loved to fish together. He began to question logging practices and look towards new practices that would protect the fish and wildlife who inhabited these forests. Casey was not a great intellectual-he only had a 4<sup>th</sup> grade education-but he was thoughtful and observant. Right before he died at the age of 92, he asked me to -in his words- "fix me \*\*\* mess his generation left". And that is another, even bigger reason, why I am here before you today.

So, after you have heard the testimony and science on why you should pass HB 3226-and of course you have also heard why we shouldn't pass this bill- I am here to ask another question. Can we improve forest practices, and should we in Oregon? My answer-and Casey's would be if he was still alive -is a resounding "YES"! Obviously, HB 3226 is too big and asks too much but if we break down this bill, there are smaller parts we can do, such as increasing buffers on non-fish bearing streams-maybe not now but down the road. We should also be starting serious discussion with the intention of doing something about the issues raised.

Another one of my heroes-my greatest hero, my father- taught me that "One should never settle for easy answer" and "Talent is over-rated-hard work is the important part to success". Because of these words, I, a terrible athlete and student did well in both sports and school because of hard work-a trait which remains with me today. Dad also taught me that one should never settle for the easy answers but strive for the best solutions. In our current Forest Practices are we settling for easy answers or should we be striving for the best solutions? That's what HB 3226 ultimately asked, in a rather long winded way-can we improve what we do with our forests in our state or should we settle for the status quo?

I am not here today to ask to get rid of forest industry-it is important for our economy and provides crucial jobs for our rural communities. All I am asking, as HB 3226 does, is that we improve our current forest practices so that we can provide for future Oregonians forests we can enjoy and recreate in.

I don't think that is too much to ask for.