



Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

March 27,2017

Trout Unlimited concerns and areas of opposition to SB 644

Chair Dembrow and Committee members-

My name is Tom Wolf and I am here today representing the 3200 members of Trout Unlimited in Oregon and 155,000 members nationwide. Today on behalf of Trout Unlimited's membership and for the sake of the healthy watersheds and wild native fish populations in Oregon, I want to express TU's concerns and opposition to parts of SB 644, especially concerning regarding protecting riparian areas and the remodel of DOGAMI Board makeup. We also want to express our thanks for the -3 amendments, which point us towards a solution.

First, regarding reform of DOGAMI mentioned in Section 1 and 2 of SB 644, the language of these reforms which would set specific stakeholder requirements, TU must strenuously object to these changes. TU will always oppose language in makeup of state Natural Resource Agencies Boards and Commissions that spell out specific stakeholder positions. In the 25 years, I have been working on helping appoint Natural Resources Agencies Board and Commission members, it has always been TU's position that we want the best and most outstanding person for that position-not whether they represent a specific stakeholder groups. The Governor's office spends lots of time and effort finding good candidates-the language of SB 644 limits the ability of the Governor's office find good people to fill out DOGAMI positions. This language alone makes SB 644 unacceptable to Trout Unlimited-and again this is before the -3 amendments.

Second, Trout Unlimited has great concerns about the suction dredge parts of SB 644, which are at the end of the bill. This part does not go far enough to address TU's concerns about negative impacts of suction dredge mining on both instream and riparian areas. And bull trout habitat gets left out of the solution for suction dredge mining negative impacts. Trout Unlimited just feels that the suction dredge mining language expressed in SB 644, does not deal as effectively on suction dredge mining issues as is currently in SB 3. Rather than spend lots of time and make my testimony too long, we support the concerns of the Oregon Chapter of American Fisheries and some other groups.

Also, Trout Unlimited feels the issue of suction dredge mining this session, and other mining issues, should be dealt with in SB 3. This bill, the driving legacy of the late Senator Bates, and concepts that

have been worked by many organizations and agencies for a couple years, should be the proper vehicle for dealing with suction dredge and upland mining, not SB 644. Trout Unlimited urges this committee to not pass this bill, SB 644 but rather wait until SB 3 comes over to the House to work and comment on that bill, which TU believes should be the priority on this issue in the 2017 session.

Having just received the SB 644-3 amendments, Trout Unlimited appreciates that many of our concerns have been taken out. We still have concerns about some of the land use provisions in allowing mining on some types of land, And the consolidated permit system is an issue that we have concern about. TU understands the concerns to simplify but worries that the wording in the -3 amendments may give owner/operators too much freedom. We would like to work on that with mining community.

Trout Unlimited is willing to work with the upland mining community to help reach solutions on their concerns. I have personally known Rich Angstrom, who represents mining groups, for about 18 years, since we both sat on the Governor's Healthy Stream Partnership Task Force. Although sometimes our groups disagree on issues, I have a great respect for him, which makes me believe that he and I can work well together, and with others, to address many of his concerns and the concerns of his clients. TU is not looking to ignore the upland mining community's concerns express in SB 644- we want, as stated before, work with miners to deal with their concerns about upland mining. We appreciate how mining community has changed some of the scope of SB 644 with -3 amendments to address our concerns on DOGAMI board reform and suction dredge mining.

In conclusion, whereas TU doesn't agree with everything in SB 644-3 amendments, we see a path forward to a workable solution. As always, Trout Unlimited stands ready to work with legislators, conservationists and the mining community to work on a common-sense solution to deal with everyone's concerns on this issue.