



April 3, 2017

Trout Unlimited testimony in support of HB 3249

Chair Clem and Committee members-

My name is Tom Wolf, here today representing Trout Unlimited, the nation's largest cold-water conservation groups. Our members are constantly working to protect and enhance the riparian habitat of salmon, trout and steelhead. In that light, Trout Unlimited supports HB 3249, an unique opportunity to work together with agricultural groups who are not traditionally our allies.

Trout Unlimited and I, over the last 25 years, have constantly been a voice of conservation for wild cold-water fish and their habitat. This has led to me testifying in many places across Oregon and the nation. In places such as DC, California, Washington, Colorado, Montana, British Columbia and a variety of other places, I have testified in support of clean water, healthy forests, large riparian buffers and other means of protecting our watersheds in the future, for both fish and people to enjoy. This is part of my belief system, as a steward of the land, and part of Trout Unlimited's mission.

And this brings me to another key point in Trout Unlimited's mission and in my belief system-that we need to, when possible work together with non-traditional allies. In many instances, I have been in opposition to the Farm Bureau and the Cattlemen's on several issues-including some just last week. But in the case of HB 3249, Trout Unlimited believes that this bill is important for helping land trusts and watershed councils to pursue their work in partnership with farm and agricultural groups.

There are a few groups in opposition to HB 3249 and I understand their concerns. But Trout Unlimited - and we are a group with a rich history of working with farmers and other private land owners in order to protect key wild salmonid habitat-believes that the overall value of HB 3249 outweigh their concerns and therefore we urge your committee to pass this bill.

