



Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

May 17, 2017

Trout Unlimited Support for HB 2883A

Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Chair Dembrow and Committee members-

My name is Tom Wolf, representing Trout Unlimited, the nation's largest cold water conservation organization, with 3200 members in Oregon and 155,000 nationwide. Trout Unlimited is unique in that while it is a conservation group, its active volunteer membership are composed of sportsmen and women. As a group who values the importance of fishing and hunting in our country, we see outdoor fishing and hunters as ambassadors for our sport. That is why Trout Unlimited supports HB 2883A.

Many times, a person from outside Oregon who wants to experience the outstanding hunting and fishing opportunities here in our state, hires a guide. So, the guide becomes the envoy who shows the uniqueness of our state and great hunting/fishing opportunities. Wanting to make sure that the guides are the best possible representatives for our state and sport, TU supported HB 3039 in 2013, which raised guide fees and strengthened guide certification standards, hopefully producing a better level of guides in Oregon. TU felt HB 2039 was a step in the right direction for improving the level of guides in our state.

Therefore, Trout Unlimited supports HB 2883A, which would prohibit a guide who is convicted of wildlife violations from registering and being suspended as an outfitter or guide for a certain period of time. This is very severe step but a necessary one, TU feels, for people who are Oregon's ambassadors to their clients. We need to hold our guides to a higher level of responsibility for the trust they have from the state and public in their roles. Thus, HB 2883A is a necessary recourse for imposing severe penalties for wildlife violations for the guiding community.

Trout Unlimited supports all the work that was done on the bill in the House and the amendments that were done to take care of various concerns. Those amendments helped keep the intent of this bill while dealing with good questions which arose during the committee discussion on this bill in the House.

So, in closing Trout Unlimited realizes HB 2883A can be viewed as a severe bill and we don't support it in a frivolous manner but feel it is essential to help set high standards for guides, who are so important to our state. TU asks that HB 2883A be passed in this committee.