



Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

Feb. 18,2017

Trout Unlimited concerns and areas of opposition to HB 2106

Chair Clem 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 HB 2106, especially concerning regarding protecting riparian areas and the remodel of DOGAMI Board makeup.

First, regarding reform of DOGAMI mentioned in Section 1 and 2 of HB 2106, 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 HB 2108 limits the ability of the Governor's office find good people to fill out DOGAMI positions. This language alone makes HB 2106 unacceptable to Trout Unlimited.

Second, Trout Unlimited has great concerns about the suction dredge parts of HB 2106, at the end of HB 2106. 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 HB 2106, 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's negative impacts, not HB 2106. Trout Unlimited urges this committee to not pass this bill, HB 2106 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.

Trout Unlimited is willing to talk 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 expressed in parts HB 2106- TU just cannot accept the parts of HB 2106 I have expressed concerns about.

In conclusion, whereas TU doesn't object to everything in HB 2106, we think that the vehicle already exists to deal with our suction dredge issue -namely SB 3. We urge this committee to not pass HB 2106 but rather wait for SB 3 to come to House side to address the suction dredge concerns. 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.