



Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

Feb.21,2017

Trout Unlimited Testimony in support of SB 198

Chair Dembrow and Committee members-

My name is Tom Wolf, here representing the 3200 state members and 155,000 national members of Trout Unlimited, this country's largest cold water conservation group. TU staff and volunteers are dedicated to protecting and restoring wild populations of wild salmonids and their habitat. TU supports SB 198, which would create an Oregon Independent Science Review Team Board.

In doing recovery and protection on native wild trout and salmon populations in the United States, Trout Unlimited relies heavily on science for all our work and projects. That is why TU has a 10-person science team, who carefully reviews all TU projects and stands on issues before we comment on issue or do a project. We also work very closely with Federal and state Natural Resource agency staff to work on scientific studies on issues.

The importance of science in doing natural resources work cannot be ignored but there also, outside agency or organizational science, needs to be a source of independent science review teams, who are not bound to agree with studies for political or organizational reasons. Therefore SB 198 is so important to helping with all science related issues in Oregon because it creates an independent Science review team of qualified scientists with a broad range of knowledge of different disciplines of science. This range of knowledge and other qualities spelled out in SB 198 will create a Board which will be able to deal with all natural resources issues that we face in Oregon.

So, in conclusion, Trout Unlimited supports SB 198 and, as I sit here before this Committee, urge that this bill be passed out of this committee. This bill creates a legitimate and valid source of independent science review that is so necessary as we deal with natural resources issues here in Oregon.