

**Testimony on House Bill 4030 before the  
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Chandra Ferrari, Trout Unlimited  
February 6, 2018**



Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill 4030. My name is Chandra Ferrari and I represent Trout Unlimited, a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of cold-water fishes, such as trout and salmon, and their habitats. Trout Unlimited has more than 300,000 members and supporters nationwide including over 3,000 in Oregon.

House Bill 4030 ensures that appropriate damages are received by the State for the illegal taking of fish and wildlife resources. In 2016, the Legislature made it a priority to pass HB 4046, a bill that significantly increased penalties for those choosing to take fish and wildlife resources without proper authorization. HB 4046 was passed in recognition of the fact that poaching significantly disrupts the delicate balance that fish and game managers must strike between allowing harvest of fish and wildlife resources and protecting the future viability of these resources for future generations to enjoy. It is imperative that penalties constitute a significant enough sum to operate as a deterrent to potential poachers. Therefore, TU enthusiastically supported HB 4046.

Unfortunately, the intent of HB 4046 has been somewhat stymied given recent legal proceedings that questioned whether the law gives the courts the authority to impose the wildlife penalties in a criminal proceeding. HB 4030 removes any ambiguity around this question and affirmatively states that courts do have the ability to impose the penalty amounts on violators. TU believes that this clarification is consistent with the intent of HB 4046.

TU strongly supports HB 4030 and appreciates the continued leadership of this Committee toward strengthening anti-poaching laws in Oregon. TU appreciates the opportunity to comment on HB 4030 and looks forward to engaging in any continuing discussions on the matter.