



February 13, 2018

Representative Brian Clem, Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

Re: Trout Unlimited Comments on House Bill 4029

Dear Chair Clem and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill 4029. My name is Chandra Ferrari and I represent Trout Unlimited (TU), 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 and over 650 in its Deschutes Redbands Chapter.

TU supports HB 4029. Oregon's State Scenic Waterway program is a critical tool to protect unique and valuable river segments. The protections that a State Scenic Waterway designation affords can vary depending on river characteristics and existing land uses etc., however every designation process includes extensive public engagement where interested parties work together to create specific rules to protect a waterway. Such was the case with the Deschutes River. Rules developed collaboratively determined that new bridge crossings would not be consistent with protecting the scenic values of the waterway. TU believes that this process is inclusive and fair and should not be undermined. Therefore, we support HB 4029 as it would help preserve the integrity of the State Scenic Waterway program.

To the extent that there is a reasonable argument that the applicable scenic waterway rules are no longer relevant nor serve their intended purpose, it should be presented to Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) for its consideration. Proposals to change waterway rules should be considered with the same robust public input that accompany original designations. OPRD, with significant public input, recently considered a potential waterway rule change and determined it was not warranted in the case of the Deschutes River. Therefore, HB 4029 is an appropriate affirmation of the current scenic waterway rules.

TU appreciates the efforts of the Bend Parks and Recreation District to reach out to stakeholders on its bridge proposal and this legislation. TU believes that discussions should continue regarding potential locations and mechanisms for the creation of a recreational trail linking Bend and Sun River. TU looks forward to engaging Bend Parks and Recreation District and others in any discussions that move forward on this topic.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 4029. TU looks forward to engaging in the continuing discussions on this legislation.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chandra Ferrari".

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