



## SB 1552

### Testimony of WaterWatch of Oregon Submitted to the Senate Committee on Business and Transportation February 14, 2018

Founded in 1985, WaterWatch is a non-profit river conservation group dedicated to the protection and restoration of natural flows in Oregon's rivers. We work to ensure that enough water is protected in Oregon's rivers to sustain fish, wildlife, recreation and other public uses of Oregon's rivers, lakes and streams. We also work for balanced water laws and policies. WaterWatch has members across Oregon who care deeply about our rivers, their inhabitants and the effects of water laws and policies on these resources.

#### **WaterWatch opposes SB 1552**

WaterWatch is primarily concerned with Section 8 as it relates to Klamath Dam Removal. Among other things, this bill would abolish the trust fund that was created to fund dam removal if removal did not commence as of December 31, 2018. Given that the removal of the Klamath River Dams is not scheduled to commence until 2020 (see attached timeline), this bill would effectively abolish the funding mechanism for this effort, and thus, in effect, halt dam removal efforts.

Removal of the Klamath River dams is widely supported. Removal of these four obsolete hydro dams will benefit the many communities which depend upon the Klamath River's invaluable resources, help fulfill Native American fishing rights throughout the basin, and protect thousands of commercial and recreational salmon fishing jobs. This bill is a poorly disguised attempt to undermine longstanding efforts to remove these dams.

We urge the committee to reject this bill.

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