



To: Members of the Senate Committee on Environment & Natural Resources
From: Jennifer Fairbrother, Native Fish Society
Date: January 24, 2019

RE: Support for SB 51

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee:

Native Fish Society was established more than two decades ago in Portland, Oregon by a few anglers and native fish advocates. Today we've grown into a leading grassroots, science-based native fish conservation group in the Pacific Northwest serving over 3,500 members and supporters. Our mission is to utilize the best available science to protect and recover wild, native fish and promote the stewardship of their habitats.

Native Fish Society supports SB 51.

SB 51 would benefit Oregon's native fish and the communities that care and rely on them by clarifying OWRD's authority to change the character or type of use of existing stored water. This critical tool provides Oregon with the tools to better adapt our storage water systems to better meet the needs of fish and wildlife and our human communities. Such flexibility is becoming increasingly vital as the impacts of climate change on our water resources increase in the coming decades.

Native Fish Society supports this very explicit and narrow change of the law. We oppose any further expansion of this authority at this time.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Fairbrother
Campaign & Columbia Regional Director