



January 24, 2019

Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Re: Senate Bill 51

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill (SB) 51. 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.

SB 51 clarifies that the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) has the authority to authorize changes to the purpose of use for which water is stored pursuant to a primary storage right. As OWRD has testified, there is broad recognition that this change is necessary to help facilitate water management solutions. There is currently legal ambiguity around whether OWRD has this authority and therefore a statutory fix is necessary. Accordingly, TU supports SB 51.

TU has been participating as a member of the water transfer legislative workgroup and we recognize that there is a broader scope of issues on the table for discussion in that group. We look forward to continuing to engage in constructive discussions regarding how best to address those issues moving forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

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