

To: Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
Co-Chairs Rep. Reardon and Sen. Taylor
Senator Frederick
Senator Girod
Representative Hayden
Representative Holvey
Representative Neron
Representative Brock Smith

From: Bob Van Dyk, Wild Salmon Center
Bob Rees, NW Guides and Anglers Association
Mary Scurlock, Oregon Stream Protection Coalition

Date: February 21, 2019

RE: TESTIMONY ON DEQ BUDGET –Support for Water Items

Co-Chairs Taylor and Reardon and Members of the Committee:

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide testimony on the budget for the Department of Environmental Quality.

Our organizations work with partners to support the conservation and sustainable use of our Oregon fisheries. DEQ plays a critical role in fisheries conservation, especially through their effort to monitor and protect water quality.

We call your attention to two parts of the DEQ budget:

- 1) The Governor's Water Effort: Governor Brown has identified the challenges to our water resources posed by climate change and our growing population. To address those challenges, the Governor included \$250,000 in Pkg. 161 for data collection and inventory of existing water infrastructure and future infrastructure needs. We urge your support for this item.

TOTAL: \$250,000

- 2) Developing Clean Water Plans and Improving Water Quality Outcomes: Oregon's pollution control system relies on both permits for point-source polluters and broader Clean Water Plans (TMDLs) for specific watersheds. The two processes are connected: permits to pollute premised on the Clean Water Plans. The budget before you includes a large investment (Pkg. 127) to reduce the backlog of pollution permits, but it includes no new resources to develop Clean Water Plans or to plan for improved water quality outcomes from non-point sources. We applaud the Governor's recommended investments in this area, but we strongly encourage you to consider reallocating those overall resources to include some funding for the Clean Water Plans (Pkg 129) and the Water Quality Outcomes (Pkg 128). These efforts are critical not only to issuing permits, but also to understanding and addressing landscape-level nonpoint sources. As you know, Oregon is spending many millions of dollars on watershed restoration efforts. Without plans to identify and understand larger watershed functions, we are unlikely to meet our goals of healthy watersheds, and we are also likely undermining our efforts at watershed restoration.

TOTAL: \$4,577,292 in Governor's Budget. *We suggest reallocation of 1/3rd each to permitting, Clean Water Plans, and Water Quality Outcomes.*

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to try to answer any questions.