



May 1, 2019

House Committee on Rules
Chair Holvey
Vice-Chair Williamson
Vice-Chair Wilson
Representative Boles
Representative Nosse
Representative Smith Warner
Representative Sprenger

Re: Trout Unlimited Comments on HCR 33

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 33. My name is Chandra Ferrari and I represent Trout Unlimited, 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.

TU supports HCR 33 and the efforts to move forward Governor Brown's 100-year water vision. The effort is timely. Population growth, drought and climate change have and will continue to place pressure on Oregon's water resources and the people, species and ecosystems that rely upon them. To ensure that Oregon is prepared to meaningfully address these challenges it must take action to develop a holistic solution that ensures both instream and out-of-stream water needs are met into the future.

In particular, TU would like to emphasize the points below.

- Engagement and Outreach: TU believes that a meaningful and durable solution to Oregon's water challenges is more likely to be developed if a diverse group of stakeholders representing both instream and out-of-stream water needs is engaged in the articulation and implementation of the 100-year vision. TU supports the request of HCR 33 that the Governor and state agencies take the lead in ensuring that this outreach and engagement occurs in a timely manner.
- Scope of Effort: To date, the 100-year water vision process has been characterized as an effort to identify and implement investments and policies that will result in "resilient natural and built water infrastructure." The use of the term "infrastructure" in the context of natural systems is a bit unclear. However, the overall goal of the effort to secure a resilient and healthy economy, community and environment supports a broad

interpretation. Accordingly, TU supports a comprehensive discussion that tracks with the overall purpose of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS) “to better understand and meet Oregon’s water needs—both consumptive and environmental—while integrating water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem needs.” To this end, TU supports language in HCR 33 that recognizes that healthy, functioning watersheds are a critical part of any water solution. Additionally, TU supports language identifying the IWRS as the starting point for discussions on this topic.

- Information Gathering: TU appreciates that the Governor and state agencies have already taken initial steps to answer critical questions that will inform any water solution discussion such as ascertaining the current state of Oregon’s water supply and quality. The lack of information on this topic and others including the lack of information concerning the current and long-term instream needs of aquatic resources has the potential to limit the effectiveness of any water solutions discussion. Accordingly, TU supports efforts to direct funding to agencies including OWEB, ODFW, OWRD and ODEQ to close this information gap.

TU appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on HCR 33 and we look forward to continued discussions regarding how best to ensure a secure and resilient water future for Oregon.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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