



February 18, 2020

Senator Dembrow, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Re: Support for House Bill 4155

Dear Chair Dembrow and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the House Bill (HB) 4155. Trout Unlimited (TU) was a member of the wetland working group subcommittee that convened last session to consider changes to the regulatory program for maintenance of traditionally maintained channels. The culmination of that effort was HB 2437, which passed last session and will be codified in ORS 1986.

TU is hopeful that implementation of HB 2437 will result in a more workable process for agricultural producers to maintain their channels while protecting ecological functions. During the working group discussions on the HB 2437 concept, the topic of a “phased in” approach to implementation was considered. Such an approach was favored by many members of the working group because it would allow the responsible agencies (Department of State Lands, Department of Agriculture and Department of Fish and Wildlife) to assess and adjust the program on a smaller scale before offering it statewide. Such an approach would also allow the agencies and partners to do necessary outreach with members of the agricultural community and allow the ecological study being conducted by Oregon State University to progress.

The sole intent of HB 4155 is to authorize a phased approach to implementation of HB 2437. The language and supporting information make it clear that authorities or obligations established under HB 2437 will not be changed as a result of HB 4155. TU understands that the three responsible agencies are working closely together to implement HB 2437 and to ensure that their respective roles and obligations are clearly captured in a memorandum of understanding (MOU) and other written materials.

TU supports the very narrow allowance in HB 4155 and is appreciative of the efforts of the agencies to collaboratively implement HB 2437. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

Chandra Ferrari
Senior Policy Advisor
cferrari@tu.org
(916) 214-9731

