



March 16, 2021

Representative Helm, Chair  
House Committee on Water

Re: Trout Unlimited Comments on HB 3228

Dear Chair Helm and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill (HB) 3228. 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. TU has more than 300,000 members and supporters nationwide including over 3,000 in Oregon.

TU opposes HB 3228 as proposed. TU is particularly concerned with provisions in the bill that divests the State of its water rights regulatory and enforcement functions if a cooperative water management plan is in effect for a region. However, we are interested in further conversations concerning regional water management process and solutions that will advance the State's water management goals and help ensure instream and out-of-stream needs are met. In many basins, current water supply is not sufficient to meet instream demands for fish and wildlife and out-of-stream needs of irrigation and municipal supply. Climate change and population growth will place increasing pressure on water supply. Regional water management solutions are an important part of addressing these challenges however appropriate oversight, sideboards and public engagement should be part of the regional planning and implementation process.

TU is engaged in many different regional water management efforts including the Yakima Basin Integrated Planning group. TU believes there are important lessons learned that can be gained from these processes that could help inform this discussion. Accordingly, TU supports further exploring this issue through a stakeholder workgroup comprised of balanced membership.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 3228.

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

Chandra Ferrari  
Senior Policy Advisor  
[cferrari@tu.org](mailto:cferrari@tu.org)