



ASSOCIATION OF NORTHWEST STEELHEADERS

P.O. Box 55400 Portland, OR 97238
office@anws.org • (503) 653-4176

05-12-2021

Chair Evans and Distinguished Committee Members,

My name is Tim Lenihan and I am a Board Member of the Association of Northwest Steelheaders and Pro-Staff for the Fallen Outdoors. Both of these non-profit organizations have a mission to serve veterans by providing angling opportunities in hopes of building community, providing veteran recreation and developing a support system for veterans.

Two years ago I helped to author a Senate Bill to direct the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to issue group permits to non-profit organizations who are serving veterans in order to allow veterans to recreationally angle in Oregon without having to purchase licenses or tags for that days' event. Oftentimes the veterans we are serving are facing financial hardship through their transition and we hoped to make the programs more accessible to all veterans to participate.

Senate Bill 1543 (legislative session 2020) was the result of the work we began on this endeavor. The bill was successfully voted out of committee and voted upon unanimously on the Senate floor. The bill was then moved to a House committee, voted on unanimously and was sent to the House floor for a vote. The session ended abruptly a short time later and the bill did not get the opportunity for a vote within the House.

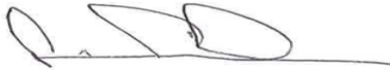
Senate Bill 320 is the current version of the bill for this legislative session. The bill has been sent through committee and once again voted on unanimously on the Senate floor. Today this bill comes before your committee for your recommendations and hopefully your approval.

Senate Bill 320 is a collaborative effort in partnership with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Through this partnership, we have jointly tailored a bill that meets the needs of ODFW as well as the non-profit groups serving veterans. ODFW should be commended for their willingness to work with our organizations to present to you a bill that has very little financial impact on the agency and allows us to help introduce veteran anglers to the sport in hopes the veterans would in turn become returning paying customers of ODFW.

I encourage you to continue to show support for our nations warriors and pass this bill through your committee for a vote on the House floor. These programs have literally saved veteran lives and we look forward to your support in our mission!

I avail myself to any questions or comments you may have regarding this bill or our programs in service of our state veteran population.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Lenihan', written over a horizontal line.

Tim Lenihan
ANWS Board Member/ TFO Pro-Staff