



February 1, 2022

Representative Marsh, Chair
Representative Zach Hudson, Vice-Chair
Representative David Brock Smith, Vice-Chair
House Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Re: Trout Unlimited Supports House Bill 4130-1

Dear Chair Marsh, Vice Chairs Hudson and Brock Smith, and Members of the Committee,

Trout Unlimited (TU) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of cold-water fish (such as trout, salmon, and steelhead) and their habitats. The organization has more than 350,000 members and supporters nationwide, including over 3,500 members in Oregon.

TU supports House Bill 4130-1.

HB 4130-1 would appropriate \$7 million to the Oregon Department of Transportation for projects that improve habitat connectivity for wildlife.

While the legislation is primarily targeted at protecting migratory corridors for big game species and reducing vehicle collisions with those animals, it may also present the opportunity to improve fish passage at project sites. Wildlife underpasses (i.e., bridges) are effective in allowing wildlife to safely cross public roads. TU wishes to highlight the opportunity to increase the state's return on investments in wildlife road crossing structures by pairing those projects with fish passage improvements wherever feasible (e.g., replacing culverts that block fish passage with a wildlife underpass and accompanying stream channel restoration). We support efforts to improve conditions on the ground for native species, and with keen planning, HB 4130-1 could be beneficial to fish and other aquatic species in addition to migratory mammals.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on this legislation, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

James Fraser
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Trout Unlimited
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