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February 3, 2022

Senator Jeff Golden, Chair  
Senator Bill Kennemer, Vice-Chair  
Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

Re: Trout Unlimited Supports Senate Bill 1546-1

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Kennemer, 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 and its members are committed to caring for Oregon rivers so future generations can experience the joy of wild trout and salmon.

**TU supports Senate Bill 1546-1.**

Numerous salmon and steelhead streams flow through the Elliott State Forest. SB 1546-1 provides a compelling model for keeping the Elliott in public ownership, and creates a path forward to managing the Elliott as a world-class public research forest. The research forest model would take a novel approach to classifying watersheds of the Elliott State Research Forest for different management methodologies. Importantly, this new framework would grant conservation reserve status to significant acreage of the Elliott that provides high-quality fish habitat. TU appreciates the Elliott State Research Forest model and this important step in creating it.

The Elliott State Research Forest Advisory Committee spent three years engaging and compromising on Elliott State Forest issues. SB 1546-1 is the result of that extensive dialogue, and is carefully crafted to reflect those discussions. TU respectfully asks you to support SB 1546-1.

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

Sincerely,

James Fraser  
Oregon Policy Advisor  
Trout Unlimited  
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