



Representative Bobby Levy

Serving Umatilla, Union & Wallowa Counties

Hello Chair Helm, Vice-Chair Hartman, Vice-Chair Owens, fellow members of the committee,

For the Record I am Representative Bobby Levy from House District 58, and I am writing to you to support House Bill 2248.

According to the Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon experienced nearly 900 wildfires, over 2/3 caused by human activity. The damage to Oregon's waterways cannot be understated, and the State needs to repair our damaged streams and tributaries. This repair work demands a responsible estimate, and HB 2248 is proposed to that end. Under this legislation, the Water Resources and Environmental Quality Departments would be required to assess how the first rains after wildfire affect water quality. The study would focus on the changes in turbidity and sediment levels, specifically their impact on salmonoid habitat pools and spawning areas.

I urge the Committee to support this first step toward repairing our rivers and salmon habitats after increasingly frequent and devastating anthropogenic wildfires.

Best,
Rep. Bobby Levy, HD 58