



May 1, 2023

Senate Committee on Natural Resources

Re: **Support for HB 3464 A**

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, 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. TU has more than 350,000 members and supporters nationwide, including many members in Oregon. The Oregon members of TU are affiliated with our entity, the Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited (“OCTU”).

HB 3464 A would establish ODFW as the sole state agency managing beavers in Oregon, instead of the current system where ODFW and ODA split jurisdiction of the species based on context and issue.

OCTU supports HB 3464 A. We appreciated concerns raised during the March 22nd House committee hearing about landowners needing the ability to quickly respond to imminent damage from beaver activities, and we believe the “A-Engrossed” version clarifies the bill language sufficiently to address and accommodate those views.

Beavers are ecologically valuable species that provide important habitat for native fish. ODFW already manages species such as skunks and foxes on private lands—including permits required to address conflicts between those animals and private landowners. Shifting all jurisdiction for beaver management to ODFW should allow Oregon to better monitor beavers and their related ecosystem services. More importantly, we are hopeful that this new system would encourage increased coexistence strategies that leave more beavers alive on the landscape, providing fish habitat and healthier riparian areas.

OCTU understands that the bill would still allow lethal removal of beavers in response to certain damage and in the instance of imminent harm to infrastructure such as irrigation works. We also understand that the bill does not change any furbearer trapping seasons or otherwise affect existing ODFW management of other furbearer species. We believe those are important considerations for this topic, and support this version of the bill for how it handles those issues.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments.

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