



February 5, 2024

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

**Re: Support for House Bill 4148 (Wildlife Package)**

Dear Chair Helm, Vice-Chairs Hartman and Owens, and Members of the Committee,

Trout Unlimited's mission is to care for and recover rivers and streams, so our children can experience the joy of wild and native trout and salmon. The 3,400 members of Trout Unlimited in Oregon are affiliated with our grassroots entity, the Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited.

**On behalf of the 3,400 Trout Unlimited members in Oregon, we ask you to move HB 4148 forward this session.**

Invasive species are a major conservation concern for Oregon's trout, salmon, and steelhead, and we appreciate this bill's efforts to prevent and mitigate the negative effects of invasive species. For example, emerald ash borer is a recently-discovered pest that will likely lay waste to native Oregon ash trees (a common tree in riparian areas, important for providing shade and habitat to streams) over the coming decades, and it's essential that the state have capacity and expertise to fight and mitigate its presence. Similarly, non-native mussels including quagga mussels and zebra mussels can have damaging effects on native aquatic ecosystems, and we must combat and hold these species at bay from becoming established in Oregon.

The Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited similarly supports the wildlife disease, wildlife coexistence, and wildlife corridor components of the bill. Please bring forward and approve HB 4148.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Rogers  
Chair, Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited