

Submitter: Bob Oleson

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and  
Water

Measure: SB1509

Committee members: SB 1509 is an important bill which will develop a voluntary program for buying out gill net permits. It will lead to creating a much smaller and more efficient fleet, one working in off channel fishing sites. Some of us involved with this bill, including leaders of the Association of Northwest steelheaders, have for many years supported the goal of removing this non selective commercial fishery from the main stem of the Columbia River.

Note that the bill will not affect the tribal fishery.

About 12 years ago governor Kitzhaber, and legislative leaders of both parties successfully supported legislation that was a vision and plan for Columbia river fishing reforms. They believed fishing opportunities and economic benefits would be greatly increased by these changes, changes that would protect more wild fish and increase the sports share of available salmon harvest. Progress has been slow. (The excellent biologists and managers at ODFW could spend many hours explaining the complicated reasons these reforms have not been achieved sooner.)

The important point now is that enacting this bill should bring our state much closer to achieving the original goals of the long-standing reform effort. Your positive action in advancing this bill will be well received by the sports fishing public – people who have paid over \$10 million into the transition fund so both they will have more fish to catch. Thank you.