



February 23, 2025

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire

Re: Eugene Chapter of Trout Unlimited Supports Senate Bill 427

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee,

Trout Unlimited (TU) is a national organization dedicated to caring for rivers and streams so our children can experience the joy of wild and native trout and salmon. Based in the Eugene-Springfield area, the Redsides Chapter of TU was established in 1998 and has a membership of nearly 700 individuals and businesses. Our work focuses on conservation and restoration in the McKenzie, Middle Fork Willamette, Umpqua, and Rogue River basins as well as community-building, and angling education efforts. As Redsides members, we consider ourselves incredibly fortunate to have easy access to these inspiring waterways and fisheries.

As such, the Redsides Chapter of Trout Unlimited supports Senate Bill 427.

As anglers and conservationists, we value Oregon fish because of the relationships they foster – with rivers and other places of natural beauty, with other anglers and outdoors-lovers, and with ourselves, as we learn how to be better stewards of the environment and, ultimately better neighbors. Fly fishing for Oregon trout, salmon, steelhead, and other species is a timeless tradition cherished in our state and without proper protection for Oregon’s water and rivers, this pastime could cease to exist.

The Redsides Chapter of Trout Unlimited believes that Senate Bill 427 helps ensure water management doesn’t degrade fish or water quality in Oregon. We believe this bill safeguards our world-class rivers and streams — and the fish, water quality, and recreational values they support — by ensuring voluntary water right changes won't further diminish streamflows. This narrow fix closes a dangerous loophole and brings modern environmental values into Oregon's outdated water right transfer review process. For these reasons and others, **we support SB 427 as a reasonable and overdue update to the state’s water laws.**

Thank you for considering this input, and please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jesse L. Robbins
President
Redsides Chapter of Trout Unlimited
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