



Blueback Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited Chapter #196

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<http://www.bluebackstu.org>

February 23, 2025

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife

**Re: Support of Senate Bill 427 (Safeguarding Stream Flows in Water Right Transfers)**

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. Our chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Bluebacks, has several hundred members in the Mid-Willamette Valley from Salem to Eugene, and from the Cascades to the ocean. As volunteers we conduct anadromous fish surveys on the North Santiam and the Luckiamute Rivers, monitor water chemistry in Corvallis area streams, annually clean trash from the South Santiam River, and participate in youth education about salmonids (i.e., Linn-Benton Salmon Watch, Clackamas Chapter Youth Flyfishing Camps).

**The Blueback Chapter of Trout Unlimited supports Senate Bill 427.**

This bill helps to ensure that water management doesn't degrade fish or water quality. SB 427 is a reasonable and overdue update to the state's water laws as it would close a loophole in existing laws that could allow dewatering of streams that are important for fish survival. Passage of the law would protect Oregon's streams by setting a standard whereby the state's water right "transfer" review process would restrict transfers that would diminish streamflows. Oregon already sees more than 200 transfer applications annually, and as more transfer applications are received by the state in coming years, this standard would protect fish, water quality, wildlife, recreation and cultural values that we and other Oregonians value.

Thank you for considering our input. Please contact me if I can answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Frederick Colwell, current President

Blueback Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Chapter #196

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