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February 25, 2025

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife

Subject: Support for SB 427

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

I'm pleased to submit written testimony in support of Senate Bill 427, closing an outdated loophole and protecting instream flows. My organization, Tualatin Riverkeepers, works to protect and restore the Tualatin River watershed, and consistent streamflows are critical to accomplishing this mission. We strongly encourage the committee's support of this bill.

The current outdated loophole in Oregon law allows the Oregon Water Resources Department to approve applications for water right transfers without what we believe to be the proper considerations of streamflows. In addressing this loophole, SB 427 will lead to more consistent water levels, better supporting fish, water quality, and scenic and recreation values.

A good deal of our own work is focused on restoring native riparian vegetation, which provides important shade for waterways and habitat for aquatic species such as salmonids. When river levels are consistent during the summer months, we can be more confident in the success of our restoration work. In a similar vein, the Tualatin River is becoming a recreational destination in the Portland region. Passage of SB 427 will help ensure strong instream flow for both restoration and recreational purposes.

Tualatin Riverkeepers and our 500 members strongly support the passage of Senate Bill 427 and the critical streamflows it will safeguard.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenn Fee", written in a cursive style.

Glenn Fee
Executive Director