



**Oregon Chapter
American Fisheries Society**

**P.O. Box 8062
Portland, OR 97207-8062
www.orafs.org**

Dear Co-Chair Gilliam, Co-Chair Bailey and Members of the Committee,

Re: SB 1512 (mercury lighting) and the impacts of heavy metals on aquatic species/habitats

Attached, please find the most recent Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society background paper on heavy metals and their potential impact on aquatic species and their habitats. Heavy metals, including mercury, can negatively impact important aquatic organisms including salmon, steelhead, sturgeon and lamprey by affecting a number of essential processes like respiration, fitness, migration/homing, and reproduction. To reduce the adverse impacts of heavy metals on aquatic environments, we recommend minimizing the use of heavy metal-containing materials in products that have the potential to enter waterways. Senate Bill 1512 is consistent with our position of reducing adverse impacts of heavy metals on aquatic environments.

The American Fisheries Society is the world's oldest and largest organization dedicated to strengthening fisheries and aquatic resources. The Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, established in 1964, is comprised of over 600 aquatic and fisheries science professionals from federal, state, and tribal agencies, colleges and universities, and diverse private employers, and includes students and retirees. Our mission is to improve the conservation and sustainability of Oregon fishery resources and their aquatic ecosystems for long-term public benefit by advancing science, education and public discourse concerning fisheries and aquatic science and by promoting the development of fisheries professionals.

Thank you for considering this background information as you deliberate on important legislation that has the potential to impact aquatic species and their habitats. Please let us know if we can be of assistance to you in any way with this or future legislative issues. Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Colleen Fagan
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