



March 19, 2019

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
Co-Chairs Rep. Reardon and Sen. Taylor
Senator Frederick
Senator Girod
Representative Hayden
Representative Holvey
Representative Neron
Representative Brock Smith

Re: Trout Unlimited Comments on SB 5539 (Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board budget)

Dear Co-Chairs Rep. Reardon and Sen. Taylor and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill 5539. My name is Chandra Ferrari and I represent Trout Unlimited, a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of cold-water fishes, such as trout and salmon, and their habitats. Trout Unlimited has more than 300,000 members and supporters nationwide including over 3,000 in Oregon.

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) plays an essential role helping protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats through implementation of grant programs. TU requests that the two critical OWEB packages described below receive full funding.

Upper Klamath River Grants

TU is signatory to settlement agreements mandating removal of four Klamath River Dams in 2021 to help facilitate salmon reintroduction. POP 250 will help “move the needle” on the recovery of salmon following removal of the four dams on the Klamath River through on-the-ground restoration, fish screening and passage and land/water acquisition.

Recommendation: Support request POP 250 for \$13,400,000 in Federal Funds for Upper Klamath Basin habitat grants.

The Governor’s Water Vision

One of Governor Brown’s priority initiatives is seeking a secure and resilient water future for all Oregonians. POP 130 (Conservation Policy and Strategic Coordination) would allow OWEB to provide contracting resources to assist with conservation policy and strategy coordination to help address complex, landscape-scale natural resource issues, such as furthering the Governor’s Water Vision. Tackling complex issues, such as water policy, requires coordination between

agencies and stakeholders on policy challenges and development of strategic investment approaches. POP 130 will provide resources to address these needs.

Recommendation: Include allocation of \$325,000 for Package 130.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chandra Ferrari".

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