



May 8, 2019

Senate Committee on Rules
Senate Majority Leader Burdick, Chair
Senator Minority Leader Baertschiger, Jr., Vice-Chair
Senator Boquist
Senator Dembrow
Senator Roblan

Re: Support for Appointment of Mary Wahl and Jill Zarnowitz to the Fish and Wildlife Commission

Dear Chair Burdick and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Governor's proposed appointments to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission). 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. Trout Unlimited submits this letter encouraging you to support the nomination of Mary Wahl and Jill Zarnowitz for the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission.

The Commission is charged with overseeing the management and conservation of Oregon's fish and wildlife resources. While a main duty of the Commission continues to be the management of game species for recreational and commercial activities, its scope is significantly broader and extends to conservation of non-game species. This broad scope reflects the reality that an increasing number of Oregonians support the protection and management of all fish and wildlife resources for non-consumptive uses (such as bird watching, wildlife viewing etc.) and that an increasing number of these species are imperiled and unlikely to persist into the future without aggressive protective actions. Accordingly, the Commission must manage the increasingly delicate task of allowing harvest of fish and wildlife resources and protecting the future viability of these resources for future generations to enjoy. This task is complex and requires decisions that are based on the best available scientific information and that have been informed by robust public input. Mismanagement of Oregon's natural resources can have long-ranging consequences and, in some cases, may not be reversible. Accordingly, it is imperative that Commissioners exhibit a strong ability to: (1) understand and apply scientific information; (2) engage with diverse stakeholders; (3) understand and consider multiple viewpoints; (4) engage in objective decision-making. Additionally, consistent with statutory requirements, all nominees should exhibit a general knowledge of fish and wildlife issues.

Trout Unlimited strongly supports the appointments of Mary Wahl and Jill Zarnowitz to the Commission. Both candidates have the traits mentioned above which we believe will help advance objective, science-based fish and wildlife management decisions. Additionally, both have diverse work and life experiences where they have demonstrated their ability to meaningfully engage with different stakeholders on all sides of important issues. TU strongly believes that both candidates will help ensure robust, public process and science-driven decision-making occurs at the Commission. Additionally, TU supports the appointment of Mary Wahl as Chair of the Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

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