



February 20, 2020

House Committee on Rules
Chair Holvey
Vice-Chair Drazan
Vice-Chair Smith Warner

Re: Support for HB 4168-1

Dear Chair Holvey and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill (HB) 4168-1. My name is Chandra Ferrari and I represent Trout Unlimited (TU), 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.

TU supports HB 4168-1 which would codify several points of agreements reached in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between representatives of the timber industry and conservation community (including TU). The MOU bridges a longstanding divide between commercial timber interests and conservation organizations and strives to put Oregon on a path toward sustainable forest management.

Consistent with the MOU, HB 4168-1 provides immediate, beneficial changes to forest rules through enhanced notification and buffer requirements for aerial pesticide spray application and a directive to the Board of Forestry to enhance riparian buffer requirements in the Rogue- Siskiyou region. Additionally, it establishes an accountable, collaborative process led by the Governor's Office to secure additional long-term changes to forest rules.

These changes represent a big step forward in the long struggle to better integrate management of Oregon's timber resources with conservation of the state's renowned coldwater fisheries. Efforts to implement the MOU, including HB 4168-1, will help protect people, drinking water sources, and salmon and steelhead populations in key rivers throughout the state, while sustaining Oregon's tradition of working forests that provide jobs for rural communities.

TU appreciates the opportunity to provide comment on HB 4168-1 and we look forward to continued discussions on this topic.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chandra Ferrari".

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