



March 25, 2021

To: House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
Representative Brad Witt, Chair
Representative Vikki Breese-Iverson and Zack Hudson, Vice Chairs
Members of the Committee

Re: HB 2386 Creates Oregon Independent Science Review Board.

I write in support of HB 2386 as the representative of the 3400 members of Trout Unlimited in Oregon.

As you know, HB 2386 is based on recommendations from the 2015 HB 202 created taskforce that was charged to evaluate the need for independent scientific review.

The following actions of HB 2386 embody these recommendations.

- Creation of the Oregon Independent Science Review Board.
- Establish an Independent Scientific Review Secretariat as an administrative section within the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University
- Establish an Independent Scientific Review Fund within the HECC (so it is independent of any institutions' oversight).

HB 2386 would create an independent board of scientists of diverse disciplines at the OSU Institute for Natural Resources. This board will be a necessity for Oregon's Governors, Legislators, agencies, and citizens as we seek to solve the environmental and resource challenges we face now and will face in the future. Life will not be simpler in the age of climate change. Agriculture, forest, water, coastal, marine, and wildlife management will require a reasoned and scientific approach. The state of Oregon houses talented cadres of scientists at Oregon State University. This resource should be maximized.

Trout Unlimited prides itself on being a science-based organization. Our projects and policy views are informed by the best available science gleaned from both our in-house and independent scientists in a wide array of disciplines.

The loud voices and vested interests seeking to influence state government need to be balanced by an unbiased independent source of scientific analysis to make good policy.

Please approve and support HB 2386.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark W. Rogers".

Mark W. Rogers
Chair Oregon Council Trout Unlimited