



April 21, 2021

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources
Co-Chairs Senator Taylor and Representative Reardon
Senator Anderson
Senator Frederick
Representative Breese-Iverson
Representative Holvey
Representative Pham
Representative Brock Smith

Re: Trout Unlimited Comments on SB 5502 (Oregon Department of Agriculture 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 (SB) 5502. 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 Department of Agriculture (ODA) implements several different regulatory programs to help ensure the success and sustainability of Oregon's agricultural industry. It is also charged with ensuring the protection of natural resources in certain circumstances including implementing a program to prevent and control water pollution from agricultural activities. This is a critical program that is necessary to help ensure that Oregon's rivers are able to support multiple beneficial uses including fish and wildlife and domestic water supply. TU supports Senate Bill 5502, which will help ensure that ODA has sufficient resources to meaningfully implement its mandates. In particular, TU requests that the Committee ensure that the following POPs are fully funded or that potential funding cuts are restored.

Water Quality (POP 340, 350, 360)

TU supports full funding for POP 340 which directs additional resources to ODA to implement the "coordinated streamside management program" that is conducted in coordination with OWEB and DEQ to increase compliance with agricultural water quality standards and improve water quality outcomes. This will help ensure an increased pace and scale of progress toward meeting water quality standards and addressing nonpoint sources of pollution from agricultural sources.

Additionally, TU recommends against the proposed elimination of two agricultural water quality positions (\$444, 958) and a Soil and Water Conservation District position (317,594).

These positions are critical to ensuring that ODA has sufficient capacity to meaningfully address water quality challenges.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

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