

The Association of Northwest Steelheaders, the oldest recreational angling advocacy organization in Oregon with nearly 800 members and 5000 supporters, is pleased to provide testimony supporting the concepts embodied in HB2244. As aligned with Prior Appropriation Doctrine, senior water rights holders are entitled to their determined water allocation. However, although the Klamath Tribes hold determined and quantified senior water rights as a result of a multi-decade adjudication process, junior water rights routinely strategically request legal stays to protect their access to water during low-flow years at the expense of the Klamath Tribe. HB2244 would ensure that the Court uses a fair process that balances the interests of all parties and water rights holders when considering a potential stay of water rights enforcements.