



February 11, 2023

Senator Jeff Golden, Chair
Senator Fred Girod, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Natural Resources

RE: Native Fish Society Supports SB 130 – Extension of the Fish Screen Tax Credit

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Girod, and Members of the Committee,

Native Fish Society¹ endorses the extension of the fish screening tax credit. Fish screening devices, fish by-pass devices or fishways are important but often costly tools to ensure that landowners and operators of water diversions are able to effectively utilize water (for example, to provide irrigation) without harming or killing wild fish. Continuing existing tax credits are important to ensure continued utilization of these important tools.

Fish screens are a common sense and important conservation tool. Given the precarious state of many of our native fish species, it's critical that deploying fish screens, designed to modern standards, remain a viable means of contributing to the protection and recovery of wild fish populations. The fish screening tax credit provides an incentive for landowners to work collaboratively with the state, and removing the credit would likely diminish engagement in an important and successful program.

Native Fish Society encourages the committee to support extending the fish screening tax credit for another six years as proposed by SB 130.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Fairbrother
Conservation Director

¹ The Native Fish Society is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission to restore abundant wild fish, free-flowing rivers, and thriving local communities across Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.