



WaterWatch of Oregon

Protecting Natural Flows In Oregon Rivers

SB 130

Testimony of WaterWatch of Oregon

by Kimberley Priestley

Senate Committee on Natural Resources

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Founded in 1985, WaterWatch is a non-profit river conservation group dedicated to the protection and restoration of natural flows in Oregon's rivers. We work to ensure that enough water is protected in Oregon's rivers and aquifers to sustain fish, wildlife, recreation and other public uses of Oregon's waters. We also work for balanced water laws and policies. WaterWatch has members across Oregon who care deeply about our rivers, their inhabitants and the effects of water laws and policies on these resources.

WaterWatch supports SB 130

SB 130 would extend the existing tax credit to landowners who install fish screens and/or passage for an additional six years. Fish screens on water diversions provide an important tool to ensure protection of Oregon's iconic fish species, including salmon and steelhead protected under the federal Endangered Species Act. Fish passage is critical for providing habitat connectivity within river systems for Oregon's aquatic species. Allowing tax credits provides a powerful incentive to landowners to screen diversions or provide passage. WaterWatch urges support of this bill.

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