



February 7, 2024

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire

Re: Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited opposes Senate Bill 1590 (rescinding the Towed Watersports Program)

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

Trout Unlimited is known in Oregon and throughout the nation for its work in restoring riparian and instream habitats to improve water quality for the benefit of wild and native fish and those who value them. The 3,400 Oregon members of Trout Unlimited are affiliated with our grassroots entity, the Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited.

The current “towed watersports” statutes are reasonable. They allow recreational boating while minimizing negative effects of towed watersport activities on native fish and water quality in the Willamette Valley. SB 1590 would result in additional damage to the once abundant anadromous fish populations in the Willamette River and its tributaries. This is not in the best interest of Oregonians. A 2016 report commissioned by the state legislature revealed that the majority of Oregonians are concerned about habitat loss, lack of water, declining fish populations, and conservation and management of resources in general.

We ask the Committee not to move SB 1590 forward in this session.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Rogers
Chair Oregon Council