



**BACKCOUNTRY  
HUNTERS & ANGLERS**  
OREGON

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire  
Oregon State Capitol  
900 Court St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301

March 13, 2025

Chair Golden, Vice Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee:

The Oregon Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (Oregon BHA) strongly supports the proposed amendment to Senate Bill 74. This amendment is a critical step in ensuring that Oregon's navigable waterways are properly managed and protected for the benefit of all Oregonians, particularly those who rely on these waterways for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreation.

The amendment provides much-needed clarity and consistency in the definition of waterway boundaries, which has historically been a source of confusion for landowners, public agencies, and the public. By affirming state ownership of submerged lands in waterways and establishing a process for declaring and adjusting waterway boundaries, this amendment will ensure that these vital natural resources remain protected under public trust.

The protection of aquatic ecosystems and riparian habitats is of utmost importance for maintaining the health of Oregon's rivers and streams. This amendment helps safeguard those ecosystems and ensures continued public access to these waters, supporting both conservation efforts and outdoor recreation.

Oregon BHA also supports the inclusion of public notice and judicial review provisions in the amendment. These provisions will enhance transparency and ensure that all stakeholders, including the public, are informed and able to participate in decisions that affect waterway boundaries and access.

The proposed amendment to SB 74 is a significant step toward maintaining Oregon's reputation as a state with abundant, accessible, and protected public lands and waters. By supporting this amendment, the committee will help ensure that these resources are preserved for current and future generations of Oregonians.

Thank you for considering this important issue. Oregon BHA encourages the committee to support the proposed amendment and advance SB 74.

Sincerely,

Ian Isaacson  
Co-Chair, Oregon Backcountry Hunters and Anglers



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