

Submitter: Bob Oleson  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and  
Wildfire  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB74

To Senate natural resources chair Golden and committee members;  
From Bob Oleson for NW Steelheaders  
Re SB 74 on navigability declarations and river access

NW Steelheaders is one of the oldest fishing and fishery conservation organizations on the West Coast. For over 30 years we have been involved in the very slow and cumbersome process of the state asserting its ownership of submerged lands, ownership that has actually existed since statehood.

We favor the final Senate version of SB 74. This important reform, developed with the good assistance of DSL, will benefit landowners and the public with a more efficient approach to navigability determinations. It seems on a daily basis anglers and recreation users in our state are hassled and threatened because Oregon and Oregonians have not been able to spend the extensive time and resources to jump through complicated hoops to further confirm state ownership of rivers up to the high watermark. This bill could lead to better addressing many of these unfortunate situations involving river access.

Finally, let me mention I spent my early years on a the large family farm on the Tualatin River. My family and our neighbors experienced some meandering river issues over the years. Long lasting conflicts and property line arguments sometimes result. This bill would provide the option for a much more timely resolution of such problems. We appreciate your attention to this important measure.