



April 14, 2025

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire

**Re: Support for HB 2170 (Watercraft Check Stations)**

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

Trout Unlimited is known in Oregon and throughout the nation for its work in restoring riparian and instream habitats in collaboration with government agencies, conservation organizations, and private landowners. The 3,400 Oregon members of Trout Unlimited are affiliated with our grassroots entity, the Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited (OCTU).

**On behalf of the 3,400 members of Trout Unlimited in Oregon, we ask you to move HB 2170 forward because it will improve our State's efforts to defend against aquatic invasive species (AIS) being introduced or established in Oregon waterways.**

AIS such as zebra mussels, quagga mussels, and golden mussels are not yet established in Oregon, but there are populations in other states. Recreational and commercial boats are constantly moving around the West, which presents great risk of AIS contamination in Oregon because AIS can cling to the bottom of boats, contaminate bilge water, and otherwise be hidden on boats or trailers.

Oregon operates some watercraft AIS check stations in high-priority transportation corridors, but we need more. Existing law requires state agencies to operate check stations, but fortunately, there are other entities such as irrigation districts and other local governments or service districts that are interested in setting up and operating more stations.

HB 2170 would authorize state agencies to enter intergovernmental agreements with those parties to operate additional check stations, inspect watercraft for AIS, and to decontaminate recreational or commercial watercraft. It is a reasonable and cost-effective policy proposal with great potential to protect our state's aquatic resources.

Please bring forward and approve HB 2170.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Rogers  
Chair, Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited