



Blueback Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Trout Unlimited Chapter #196
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<http://www.bluebackstu.org>

June 2, 2025

Senate Committee on Rules

Re: Blueback Chapter of Trout Unlimited Supports Senate Bill 1153

Dear Members of the Committee,

Trout Unlimited (TU) is a national organization dedicated to caring for rivers and streams so our children can experience the joy of wild and native trout and salmon. Our chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Bluebacks, has several hundred members in the Mid-Willamette Valley from Salem to Eugene, and from the Cascades to the ocean. As volunteers we conduct anadromous fish surveys on the North Santiam and the Luckiamute Rivers, monitor water chemistry in Corvallis area streams, annually clean trash from the South Santiam River, and participate in youth education about salmonids (i.e., Linn-Benton Salmon Watch, Trout Unlimited Youth Flyfishing Camps).

Given these interests, The Blueback Chapter of Trout Unlimited SUPPORTS Senate Bill 1153.

This bill helps to ensure that water management doesn't degrade fish habitat or water quality. SB 1153 is a reasonable and overdue update to the state's water laws as it would close a loophole in existing laws that could allow dewatering of waters that are important for fish survival. Passage of the law would protect Oregon's streams by setting a standard whereby the state's water right "transfer" review statutes require the state to check for the effects of changing a water right on fish habitat and water quality, and restrict changes that would damage it.

As more transfer applications are received by the state in coming years, this law would protect fish, water quality, wildlife, recreation and cultural values that we and other Oregonians value.

Thank you for considering our input. Please contact me if I can answer any questions.

Sincerely,

Frederick Colwell, current President
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