



Oregon Council Trout Unlimited

Feb. 28,2017

Trout Unlimited Letter in Support of HB 2320

Chair McKeown and Committee members-

My name is Tom Wolf, here representing the 3200 members of Trout Unlimited in Oregon and our 155,000 members nationwide. Trout Unlimited's mission is to protect and restore native, wild trout and salmon populations in our country -and their habitat. But the unique membership of Trout Unlimited is that we are composed of sportsmen and women who fish. And many of our members own and use some sort of watercraft so that they can better access the waters of Oregon to pursue many angling opportunities in this great state of ours. Trout Unlimited supports HB 2320 and is here to testify for this worthwhile bill.

With the advent of new technologies and with the creation of more affordable watercraft, many anglers can now acquire affordable boats such as kayaks, canoes, and pontoon boats. I myself own a 9-foot pontoon boat that I can afford on my budget, which allows me to fish rivers and lakes in my pursuit of Oregon's fish species with my flyrod. HB 2320 would provide many services for non-motorized boats owners in our state.

Trout Unlimited, while it is always wary of more fees being charged to pay for agencies being able to do their job, feels that the fees proposed in HB 2320 are not too high to be out of range of public. And Unfortunately, if state natural resource agencies are not given enough state general funds, and with less lottery money, the only response that agencies such as the State Marine Board facing funding deficit is to pass bills which increase fees. I wish there was another way but right now there doesn't appear to be.

With the large number of Oregonians acquiring non-motorized watercraft aligned with the large number of Oregon rivers and lakes, we have many people with these of boats lately. HB 2320 will provide both the programs and fees necessary to help Oregon deal with more boaters taking to our waters. TU urges your committee to pass this bill.