



Trout Unlimited

March 11, 2017

Trout Unlimited support for HB 2131

Chair Helm and Committee members-

My name is Tom Wolf, here representing the 3200 members of TU in Oregon. Trout Unlimited is the nation's largest Coldwater conservation group. Our members and staff are involved in many efforts to protect/restore native wild salmonids and their habitat. I am here today to state Trout Unlimited's support of HB 2131, which is being heard before this committee today.

One of the concerns and issues that Trout Unlimited works on is water quality issues-being able to prevent harmful materials from entering our waters of the state. Of interest, because of the massive impact it can have on our rivers, lakes and streams is oil spills, especially from oil carried on trains, which is a major weight to ship oil. HB 2131 would create rules and standards to help provide oil spill prevention methods.

The bill also changes the language in statute to improve the level of protection from oil spills, section 1-15-18, navigable waters is expanded to include inland watersheds and drinking water, thus improving the breadth of protection needed. There are other language changes that also help provide more protection from rail oil spills.

Finally, Trout Unlimited supports HB 2131 because the bill provides protection from oil spills for the native wild salmon and trout which swim in the many rivers and streams in Oregon, and the Columbia/Snake River system which borders our state. These streams, besides providing the ecological habitat for all Oregon's native fish, are part of the over \$1 billion dollars brought into our state's economy every year by recreational fishing. Many of the money spent is in Oregon's rural towns and provides jobs for the inhabitants of these areas. HB 2131 when it is passed in this committee, will help insure healthy fish runs that provides jobs and recreational fishing opportunities for many Oregonians.