



February 14, 2018

Senator Lee Beyer, Chair  
Senate Committee on Business and Transportation

Re: Trout Unlimited Comments on Senate Bill 1552

Dear Chair Beyer and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill 1552. My name is Chandra Ferrari and I represent Trout Unlimited (TU), a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of cold-water fishes, such as trout and salmon, and their habitats. Trout Unlimited has more than 300,000 members and supporters nationwide including over 3,000 in Oregon.

TU opposes SB 1552. In particular, TU is concerned with the section entitled “Removal of Klamath River Dams.” This section seeks to abolish the trust fund established by the Public Utility Commission to fund Klamath River Dam removal if the physical act of removing the dams has not been initiated by December 31, 2018. Given that dam removal is not scheduled to commence until 2020, this bill would effectively halt dam removal efforts.

A diverse group of stakeholders, including TU, spent years collaboratively negotiating the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement and Klamath Basin Hydroelectric Agreement (collectively the “Klamath River Agreements”). A key component of the Klamath River Agreements is removal of four obsolete hydropower dams on the Klamath River so that the river may once again support legendary runs of salmon and steelhead. These agreements were carefully crafted with multiple interests at the table and include many elements beyond dam removal including a basin-wide solution for water sharing, water supply infrastructure and habitat restoration. Implementation of the agreements will benefit local communities, tribal interests and salmon and steelhead populations that support a robust fishing and recreation economy. SB 1552 would undermine these agreements and therefore TU urges the Committee to reject it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 1552.

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