



Kate Miller
Director of Government Affairs

December 11, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

The Honorable Joe Manchin, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

RE: TU supports the Oregon Recreation Enhancement Act (S. 1262)

Chair Murkowski, Ranking Member Manchin, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of Trout Unlimited, we write in support of S.1262, the Oregon Recreation Enhancement Act. We thank you for taking up this legislation and urge you to favorably report the bill through your December 12, 2019 markup.

As hunters and anglers, we know firsthand of remarkable values found in watersheds like the Rogue and Molalla, along with the diverse hunting and angling opportunities provided by the Kalmiopsis Region in Southwest Oregon. The Rogue is home to exceptional runs of fall Chinook, summer and winter steelhead, as well as thriving populations of black bears, Roosevelt elk, and blacktail deer. Similarly, the Kalmiopsis Region provides some of the most intact habitat for anadromous species in the lower 48 states. The Molalla River accounts for production of over 25% of each year's run of endangered Willamette Basin winter steelhead and provides drinking water for more than 25,000 Oregonians who make their homes in the cities of Canby and Molalla. These rivers collectively represent some of our best hopes for recovery of salmon and steelhead populations and attract guides and sports anglers from around the West, supporting our region's travel and tourism economy.

We thank Senators Wyden and Merkley for their leadership on this legislation and we thank the Committee for considering the bill in this week's markup. We urge you to support S.1262, the Oregon Recreation Enhancement Act, and favorably report for consideration by the full Senate.

Sincerely,

Kate Miller
Government Affairs Director

Kyle Smith
Oregon Field Coordinator

A mission to conserve, protect, & restore North America's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds.

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