

March 15, 2021

Representative David Brock Smith
District 1
900 Court St. NE, H-379
Salem, Oregon 97301

On behalf of Rogue River Guides and Sportsman's Association we would like to express our support for your bill, HB 3150 which is for the use of Incubation boxes for Salmonids. Also referred to as (hatch boxes) be declared an emergency and make this bill effective by July 1, 2021 while doing so allowing there to be sufficient State dollars to operate this effectively.

Salmonids are crucial to our local waterways. Giving more angler opportunities, supporting local businesses surrounding the waterway, motels, tackle shops, fishing guides, etc.

We are in full support of this bill as we know how crucial once again abundant salmon returns are to the area of Southern Oregon. Many towns are dependent on a return each year of Salmonids to support their livelihoods and boost the local economy. Not only an economic importance but to provide food and everlasting memories of sharing the sport of fishing with their friends and family.

The guides, sportsmen, and women in our organization have spent lifetimes on our waterways fishing and believe this is the time to act. HB 3150 can turn our Southern Oregon Salmonid fishing back to historic levels. Provide stable runs of salmonids for our children and grandchildren, boost the economy once again in areas where declining salmonid populations have caused businesses to shut down operation.

Salmon and steelhead runs returning in abundance back to our Oregon waterways is crucial to maintain opportunities to the recreational angler and Guides.

We all need to be aware of the drastic decline in salmon runs across the State of Oregon and along the West Coast in the last 5-10 years. This is the time to make a difference. We are aware of the natural issue's salmon face such as rising water temperatures, predation, and habitat but we feel strongly this is one thing we can control and will make a difference. Hatch boxes are crucial to bringing back more fish for our future. This will benefit our children, grandchildren, and the future generations of anglers to come. Maintaining healthy Oregon Rivers and Streams while allowing the best angler opportunities we feel must not be put behind us.

Sincerely,

Shane Blair
Vice President
Rogue River Guides and Sportsman's Association