

Hello House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee,

I'm writing to express my support for HB3150 to require the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to design and implement an instream egg incubation box program to be utilized as a tool for restoring the historical abundance of our native stocks of salmon and steelhead.

The use of instream salmon and steelhead egg incubation box systems has been scientifically proven to substantially increase juvenile salmon and steelhead production. The goal of HB 3150 is to enhance ongoing salmon and steelhead recovery efforts and increase future angler harvest opportunities.

As an avid fisherman and conservationist, I fully support any and all efforts to improve our fisheries throughout Oregon. Hatchery programs alone are not meeting the needs of recovery. The wild versus hatchery debate is based on minimal research, inaccurate assumptions, and is simply wasting time. All possible means, including hatch boxes need to be deployed now! I've been witnessing first-hand the decline of our fisheries for the past three decades since hatch boxes were pulled from use. Bring them back! Give your rivers every chance.

Please move this legislation forward and help Oregon fish populations!

Thank you,

Jody Bleisch
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