

Submitter: Peter Murray

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Natural  
Resources

Measure: SB5509

March 22, 2023

Re: SB 5509

Dear members, Joint Committee of Ways and Means; Natural Resources  
Subcommittee.

I'm writing in support of ODFW's Water Program.

Please protect ODFW's water program from cuts. The legislature has worked hard over the past decade to staff up the ODFW's Water Program to the current level.

Please protect against any cuts to this program in the final legislative budget.

In that vein, I would like to voice support for two of the Policy Option Packages.

Policy Option Package 107 would fund 3 ODFW positions to work on Integrated Water Resources Solutions, including Place Based Planning and other regional collaboratives. The water needs of salmon, other fish, and wildlife will be severely compromised without ODFW participation in these regional water forums.

Policy Option Package 110 is critical to understanding stream temperatures and how they affect Oregon's iconic species, including federally listed salmon and steelhead.

In order to fund the work and programs listed above, the committee might be looking for items in the ODFW budget to eliminate or reduce in size. I suggest eliminating the millions of dollars spent on hatcheries. Specifically, the ones that produce salmon and steelhead for release into rivers and ocean. It has been shown that those hatcheries are a significant waste of resources. Those dollars could be spent on habitat improvement.

I'm a native Oregonian, and have lived here for 77 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony.

Sincerely,

Peter Murray