

## Testimony Opposing SB512

I have lived on the North Umpqua River for 25 years and have fished the summer and winter steelhead run for 40 years. I am very concerned with the health of the wild summer steelhead run, which has had seven of the lowest recorded returns in the last 10 years. In 2022, the Fish and Wildlife Commission wisely decided to end the summer steelhead hatchery program after two years of studying the issue, listening to local conservation angling groups, visiting the river, and studying the vast amount of science that suggests hatchery plants harm wild fish, and seeing no effective means to separate the hatchery and wild fish.

Since that decision, I have heard lots of complaints for groups outside the North Umpqua area clamoring that they need the hatchery program returned to the North Umpqua so they can harvest summer steelhead. This is disingenuous, there are many westside rivers with hatchery summer steelhead for harvest: the Sandy, Clackamas, Santiam, Mckenzie, upper Willamette, Rogue, Wilson, Trask, Nestucca, and the Siletz. In fact the North Umpqua is the only west side river with a native wild summer steelhead run that is free from hatchery fish. Can't we have one river dedicated to wild summer steelhead?