

Submitter: Pat Okonek  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and  
Wildfire  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB512

I strongly support the restoration of the North Umpqua summer steelhead run through reopening the Rock Creek fish hatchery and/or other means to restock and maintain healthy populations of this magnificent fish. I'll never forget the first steelhead I caught on the river and the many memories of fishing below and above the deadline. Let future generations enjoy this fishery and make their own memories. Lake Michigan is full of coho salmon originally stocked from Oregon. Countless Great lakes streams have strong runs of steelhead resulting from hatchery operations. No one cares that the fish aren't native. They are wild as soon as they begin their journey.