

February 4, 2025

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire

**Re: Andy Archer opposes Senate Bill 512 (North Umpqua Hatchery Summer Steelhead)**

Dear Chair Golden, Vice-Chair Nash, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Andy Archer, I live in Eugene, Oregon, **and I am opposed to SB 512 relating to Rock Creek Hatchery and restarting the summer steelhead program on the North Umpqua River.**

I have been fly fishing the North Umpqua River for 15 years. As an angler, I am deeply concerned about the impacts to the reproductive fitness of wild fish that restarting this program would have. The ODFW Commission wisely determined in 2022 to cancel this program due to its failures to meet conservation metrics.

On the *separate* but related issue of whether this facility is a smart place to invest, I am concerned about making infrastructure investments at Rock Creek Hatchery (which ODFW's agency request budget and the Governor's Budget effectively propose not to rebuild following the 2020 Archie Creek fire). Hatcheries require cold, clean water to operate, and there is no reliable, natural supply of such water at this location necessary to rear healthy fish, making it an irresponsible program to sink public money into.

The North Umpqua is an iconic Oregon waterway, and a crown jewel in the world of wild steelhead rivers. Prioritizing the watershed's wild steelhead is the right approach. Instead of sinking taxpayer dollars into this bill's proposal, I would recommend restoring the North Umpqua steelhead fishery by removing Winchester Dam.

I strongly oppose SB 512 because it would waste public money, be detrimental to wild fish, and because it ignores the expert opinions of ODFW to not continue the Rock Creek Hatchery summer steelhead program.

Thank you for considering this input, and please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Andy Archer  
Eugene, OR  
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