

February 4, 2025

Chairman Golden
Vice-Chair Nash
Members of the Committee

My name is Becky McRae, I have a home in Glide and a condo in Tigard and am the President of The North Umpqua Foundation.

I am writing in opposition of SB 512, relating to Rock Creek Hatchery and restarting the summer steelhead program on the North Umpqua River.

In 2022, the ODFW Commission ended this program due to critically low wild summer steelhead populations and the hatchery program's failure to meet conservation metrics outlined the Coastal Multispecies Management Plan.

In August, I attended three webinars ODF&W held where information was shared addressing the current challenges of aging infrastructure, changing climate and rising operating costs of the state-owned hatcheries. The webinars covered an assessment of the likely future need for hatchery purposes, an economic analysis of current operating costs of hatchery production, the impact of climate change on the future viability of hatchery programs and the costs and benefits of infrastructure investments in each of the fourteen state-owned hatchery facilities. Some of the information came from third-party assessments. The hour long webinars were informative and presented as information without any attempt to influence the audience. The recommendation at the end of the webinar was to stop the funding for two hatcheries – Rock Creek being one. The cost of the third-party consultants was **\$1 million dollars**.

It is my understanding that the bill allocates **\$2 million dollars** toward restarting the program, despite the Rock Creek Hatchery's destruction caused by the Archie Fire in 2020. Prior to the fire, the site had already faced significant water quality issues making it a poor place to invest in public dollars.

Section 3 in the bill states that the act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety. After going through the Archie Fire, I believe the public's peace, health and safety would be better served if the **\$2 million dollars** went toward wildfire fighting.

Thank you,

Becky McRae