

Submitter: Roger Lindquist

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2342

My name is Roger Lindquist and I am from the beautiful Southern Oregon Coast town of Gold Beach. I am the president of Curry Anadromous Fishermen who manage and run the Indian Creek STEP Hatchery on the lower Rogue River. I am also the Vice-Chair for the Salmon & Trout Advisory Committee; who are the public's voice to the ODFW Commission for everything Salmon & Trout.

I am here in support of HB2342

Our community, like many in Oregon, rely heavily on hunting and fishing for their economies. Without the passage of this bill ODFW's support for and management of our natural resources will be severely impacted. This could and, more than likely, would impact communities like mine in a very negative way. An example, our county is currently experiencing the effects of years of underfunding. It catches up with you, as it did for us last year. Our county sheriff and planning departments, just to name a couple, were decimated with personnel and services reductions. I do not want to see ODFW suffer that same fate.

Fishing is one of the largest, if not the largest, draw to the Southern Oregon Coast. This activity supports our hotel/motels, RV parks, grocery stores, gift shops, restaurants; well basically our economy. Anything that would reduce the availability and accessibility of fishing and hunting would be devastating to not only Curry County but the State of Oregon as a whole.

From the ODFW website , over 70% of salmon and steelhead harvested in Oregon come from a hatchery; if this bill is not passed there is real potential that the number of fish available to the public would decrease due to less hatcheries and/or personnel to manage and run them. Less fish means less fishermen in hotels/motels, grocery stores, RV parks, etc. Without sufficient funding it is a downward spiral; I do not want this to happen to our State or our fish and game.

As you know, no one likes to pay more; but nothing costs the same as it did 10 years ago when the last fee structure was enacted. We have gone 6 years since the last of those fee increases that were passed by the legislature and went into effect in 2015. ODFW has been effective with the funding that has been available but is facing some very big challenges that need to be funded. Please act now before ODFW is forced to cut back or even discontinue much needed services for the hunters, fishermen and our youth of Oregon.

Please pass HB2342 in its entirety for all parties, human and animal.