

Submitter: David Grosjacques

On Behalf Of:

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

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2342

I am writing this letter of support for HB 2342, a license fee increase for fishing in Oregon. I am 75 years old and have been fishing in Oregon since I was 10. I understand how large a part of the ODFW budget income is made up of license and tag fees. I have talked with ODFW staff about the budget shortfall for Fish Division. They have explained the situation with rising costs for personnel and equipment, and the fact that current income from licenses remains fairly steady. The shortfall will result in drastic cuts to Fish Division programs unless there is an increase in income. I have been involved in fish and fish habitat projects as a volunteer since 1987. I am a member of three fishing clubs in Southern Oregon, and have talked with fishermen about a possible increase in their license fees. Most all agree that it is time for an increase so that the fish programs will not be cut. I am also a member of the STEP Advisory Committee and am the chair of the Restoration and Enhancement program. Both of these groups get current news and updates concerning fish programs. That information has helped me decide that any increase in license fees is necessary to keep the vital fish programs going in Oregon. HB 2342 will, if passed into law, will help Fish Division keep their fish programs in place. Please do what you can to pass this bill for Oregon fishermen.