

March 27, 2025

Senate Committee on Natural Resources:

As a local business owner, I'm writing in strong support of SB 512 because the Rock Creek Hatchery and our fisheries in general have long been critical contributors to our local economy and our community. There is extremely strong community support for rebuilding the hatchery, which provides jobs as well as educational and recreational opportunities for local residents and visitors to the area. I can attest that healthy fishing seasons draw noticeably more visitors to the area, prompting me to hire more staff to handle the higher traffic. The Archie Creek Fire brought extensive hardship to our community, and permanently losing the hatchery would only compound that. Conversely, rebuilding the hatchery would send a signal that the state supports the revitalization of rural communities like ours while materially supporting our economy and our community.

Thank you,

Eric Sohn

Owner, Idleyld Trading Post, Idleyld Park