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| Submitter: | Jeffrey Dose |
| On Behalf Of: | Self |
| Committee: | Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire |
| Measure, Appointment or Topic: | SB512 |

My name is Jeff Dose, I reside in Roseburg and am a retired fisheries biologist with 31 years of experience in the Umpqua basin. I oppose SB 512-2 because I believe this bill is an irresponsible expenditure of General Fund moneys. There are numerous native and introduced invasive predators on juvenile salmonids in the Umpqua Basin. These include natives such as Umpqua pikeminnows, mergansers, ospreys, herons, cormorants, and others. They also include non-native invasives, such as striped bass and, especially, smallmouth bass. The proposed predator study is not well defined, but has been conducted elsewhere and, as mentioned during the testimony, a huge problem is smallmouth bass predation due to their extremely large population and wide-spread distribution in the South and Mainstem Umpqua Rivers. Presently, they are not a problem in the North Umpqua River. Although there have been attempts, no treatment for reducing smallmouth bass predation has been successful, and none are likely. A thoroughly researched study would require multiple years and several different release strategies to develop reliable trend information. The amount of proposed funding would be inadequate and over such a limited time-frame that the information would very likely provide no new information. Besides, monitoring and evaluation of release strategies should be routine and an integral part of any hatchery program. Having observed your passage of this proposal and if it goes forward, I would strongly recommend that the predator study be conducted only on the South Umpqua winter steelhead and Cow Creek coho programs with test smolts produced at Cole Rivers and acclimated at Canyonville and Galesvale acclimation facilities, respectively. If the North Umpqua spring chinook return study is conducted, I recommend the test smolts be produced at Cole Rivers and acclimated at Rock Creek.