



Tillamook County Board of Commissioners

201 Laurel Avenue, Tillamook, OR 97141

Phone: 503-842-3403

Erin D. Skaar, Chair
Paul Fournier, Vice-Chair
Mary Faith Bell, Commissioner

April 2, 2025

Co-Chairs Frederick and Levy and members of the committee,

My name is Erin Skaar and I am the Chair of the Tillamook County Board of Commissioners. I am pleased to be submitting written testimony today in support of House Bill 5009 with a special emphasis on POP 120, Hatchery Resiliency Infrastructure. As a county whose economy is significantly supported by natural resources and tourism, the work of the Department of Fish and Wildlife is important to assuring the well-being of both of those economic drivers, with hatchery fish production being a crucial piece supporting both commercial and recreational fisheries.

As a Tillamook County Commissioner and an avid hunter and fisher myself, I can see the need for the work of ODFW from all perspectives. In Tillamook County we work with ODFW on our fisheries in our rivers, our bays and the ocean. We partner on fish passage and habitat restoration projects when we repair roads and alongside our farmers. We support wildlife management, conservation and harvest in state forest lands located within our county. Commercial and recreational fisheries bring tourism to our county. Our economic success is inextricably linked to the work of ODFW.

I have also had the unique opportunity to see the ODFW hatchery system from the inside as the spouse of a former hatchery manager. Living on two hatcheries during our marriage I have seen my husband fix things, jerry rig things, chase non-state funding to repair and replace key pieces needed, and keep the hatchery functioning by the sheer force of his personal will. All while also providing exceptional fish culture to ensure the best product was available to the commercial and recreational anglers in Oregon.

The work done to inventory the greatest needs of the hatchery system done under SB5506 has already borne fruit in supporting decision making. Please don't let this work grow stale by not providing the \$20 million in funding requested in POP 120. Inventories and assessments are a snapshot in time; waiting to make an investment will cause the good work done, and investment made to be for nought.

Please support the full budget request of ODFW with special emphasis on POP120.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Erin Skaar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Erin" and last name "Skaar" clearly visible.

Erin Skaar, Chair
Tillamook County Board of Commissioners