

Submitter: Brett Gesh

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Capital Construction

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5505

I own two businesses. I've been a licensed fishing guide for 32 years and a realtor for 12 and I own property on the Willamette River. Hatcheries are a key component to the history and future of our community. My Grandfather helped in the first hatchery program on the Willamette River in the early 1900's. It was vital then to get salmon back in the Willamette valley after 0 fish passage for almost 20years due to blocking the Willamette falls. Hatcheries are vital now for a few reasons. Economic, the amount of money a thriving fishery brings into a community with travel, hotels, convenience stores, guides just to name a few. It's not uncommon to have 2 fishing clients spend close to \$1500 a day in our community for a 1 day fishing trip. Small businesses rely on hatcheries to keep there doors open. As a realtor I see home prices rise and drop with hatchery production. Point being the value of my home dropped over a hundred thousand dollars when they said they weren't going to release summer steelhead on the Willamette River. One thing that doesn't get talked about much is the pacific salmon treaty. The commercial fleet takes over 70% of our local fish. Without our hatcheries we wouldn't have any salmon or steelhead left in our rivers. There are several other factors that effect our fish sea lions, Turns and Cormorants to name a few. Until these problems are better addressed we are reliant on hatcheries and the fish they produce.