

Submitter: Kayla Stewart  
On Behalf Of: 5  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
Capital Construction  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5505

To whom it may concern,

My name is Kayla Stewart. I am an Oregonian native. I grew up in Walterville near the McKenzie River. It truly is my favorite place. When it was time to choose a college, I picked a local school. I knew I wouldn't be happier anywhere else.

I grew up enjoying fishing with my father, family and friends. When we were dating, my husband taught me to steelhead fish. I was shocked at how much more fun there was to be had.

I couldn't wait to share our love of fishing and the river with my children. We bought a drift boat and our girls grew up in that boat. We even departed our wedding in a drift boat and casted a line for steelhead on the Willamette river.

We mentor many children and use fishing as a confidence builder. My husband, his grandfather and I used to volunteer at the Leaburg fish hatchery free fishing day, when children got to come and fish directly out of the hatchery. My grandfather used to volunteer with the stocking and give us updates when and where fish were stocked during the season. I always want to take people to the hatchery and look at the fish, since i was 6. These were happy days for us. I would like to see my growing family continue in this tradition.

My husband and I just recently achieved our dream and goal of living closer to the McKenzie River and now live 1 mile from the Leaburg Fish Hatchery. We have goals and a passion to see children and their families enjoy the excitement of fishing on the McKenzie, catch and release, bait fishing, salmon and steelhead ect.

Please, I strongly urge, for the support of Oregon fish hatcheries to be funded and returned to their former glory of being staffed and regulated.

With a sincere heart,  
Kayla Stewart