



Chair Girod, Chair Nosse and members of the Committee,

Oregon CCA supports SB 5505 and ODFW's request for \$20.2 million in bonded funding for deferred hatchery maintenance. Given the estimated \$200 million backlog we encourage consideration of increasing that amount to \$40 million.

ODFW operates 33 hatcheries that produce 35 million salmon and steelhead and 5 million trout. Almost 80% of the salmon and steelhead harvested in Oregon begin their life in a hatchery and nearly 90% of the harvested trout come from our hatcheries. Without hatcheries there would not be significant harvestable fisheries in Oregon.

According to recent analysis, on an annual basis hatcheries account for \$0.4 million in commercial harvest, \$62.3 million in recreational angler spending, and \$6.5 million in visitor spending. These amounts represent an estimated 659,000 recreational fishing angler days and almost 170,000 visitor days. Hatcheries are an important economic driver in Oregon, especially in rural economies.

According to ODFW's recently completed Hatchery Resiliency Study Oregon's hatcheries face an estimate \$200 million backlog in deferred maintenance. It is unbelievable that Oregon's decision makers have allowed critical infrastructure to deteriorate to such a degree.

It's understandable to focus on the numbers when considering an investment in the state's hatchery system, but let's not forget the recreational benefits and social value of providing robust fisheries.

There's something magical about a grandparent or parent taking their grandkids and kids fishing. It can be simply viewed as important time together enjoying the outdoors or agree that it goes even further.

Fishing provides a valuable opportunity to experience the outdoors and nature. Those experiences foster an appreciation for clean water, healthy forests, pollution and climate impacts, and our responsibility as stewards.

Well maintained and efficient hatcheries are critical infrastructure. They mitigate lost natural production and are an important tool in recovering depressed natural stocks.

And its past time to reinvest in Oregon's hatchery system. Please support SB 5505 and ODFW's request for \$20.2 million to begin addressing the growing backlog of deferred maintenance in Oregon's hatcheries.

Thank you for your service and considering Oregon CCA's support of hatchery funding.

Respectfully,

Dave Schamp

Chairman