



PAUL R. HOLVEY
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 8
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MEASURE: HB 4060
EXHIBIT: 7
2012 SESSION S ENV. & NAT. RESOURCES
DATE: 2-9-12 PAGES: 1
SUBMITTED BY: Rep Paul Holvey

February 9, 2012

Co-Chair Vic Gilliam, Co-Chair Jules Bailey
Members of the House Energy, Environment and Water Committee
RE: HB 4060 – Native Salmon Disease Prevention

Thank you for agreeing to hold a public hearing on HB 4060. I am hoping that the committee will consider urgency to pass HB 4060, with the -1 amendment.

The purpose of this bill is to protect wild stocks of Pacific salmon. It has come to my attention that this virulent disease has been identified in wild sockeye salmon in British Columbia and is suspected to have originated from Atlantic Salmon, which are being raised by the aquaculture industry in British Columbia and Washington. It is my understanding this disease has wiped out wild stocks of salmon in Chile, Scotland and Norway; and that stopping this disease has so far proved unsuccessful.

I believe that the Pacific community needs to proactively take action to reduce the risk of an outbreak of this disease in waters that connect to the Pacific Ocean. Action by individual government entities is a first step to a concerted effort for international collaboration to stop infectious salmon anemia and other risks to the health of our Pacific Salmon stocks.

Perhaps the highest risk of spreading viruses and illness to wild stocks of Pacific salmon is from exposure to pathogens from genetically engineered and Atlantic Salmon, which are farmed in, or escape from, waters common to the wild stocks. It is my belief that immediate action should be taken to minimize this risk that jeopardizes the survival of our wild stock salmon, their habitat, the food sources and economy they represent. Waiting until this disease spreads will be too late for action.

Representative Boone and I have received a lot of input and have worked with the ODF&W and representatives of the fishing industry resulting in the -1 amendment. This bill is important to protect the future of Pacific Salmon in Oregon by mitigating risks of disease to our natural stocks, and it is important to the future of Oregon's salmon fishing industry. I urge your support and passage of HB 4060.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Paul Holvey
Oregon State Representative
House District 8

