

3 March 2015

House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

Chair Rep. Brad Witt

My name is Scott Starkey; I am co vice –chair of OHRC. I represent the Forest Products industry and have over 40 years of management experience. I have been on the OHRC advisory board now for nearly two years and it has been a fascinating learning experience. I am not a scientist and have approached my duties to oversee OHRC from a fiscal and management efficiency viewpoint.

I have observed that OHRC has conducted and been involved in very valuable and interesting research since its inception. It has a very capable staff and is a state of the art facility. OHRC's main problem is a lack of long term funding for its own research projects that are critical to developing a sound plan for Oregon to manage for both wild and hatchery fish. The research that has and is being conducted is being funded thru grants and organizations both foreign and domestic. OHRC gets to prioritize and approve the research proposals and has the benefit of the results. The problem is, since we have no long term funding of our own, we cannot specify and conduct the research (up to 15 years, 3 salmon generations) studies that have been designed to specifically answer questions needed to set policy and future management plans for Oregon.

The OHRC board has sifted thru numerous valuable research proposals, prioritized their value to us, and have selected three: 'Mate Selection', Differences caused by Hatchery Rearing', and Imprinting and Homing'. These three proposed projects occurring simultaneously will take up to 15 years and cost about \$12 million dollars (please refer to detail provided in OHRC 2014 Annual Report). The OHRC board has thoroughly scrutinized each of these proposals by the scientists. We have set benchmarks, some quarterly, annually, and at stage completion to review their progress and then for approval by the OHRC board for their continuation, alteration or cessation.

Please pass HB 3012. Its passage is the mechanism to funding these long term projects that are critical to Oregon and for ODFW to be able to create policy to properly follow its mandate to manage for both wild and hatchery fish backed by sound science.

In my career I've watched Oregon's once thriving and sustainable timber industry and rural economy be devastated by ESA lawsuits over spotted owls and marbled murrelets. This could likely have been avoided had we been in the forefront of research rather than losing lawsuits for lack of evidence and then trying to catch up. I fear that Oregon's sport, commercial and tribal fisheries is at risk as well if we don't commit to doing our due diligence in advance. Thank you.

Scott Starkey

