



To the Honorable Chairman, State Representative Brad Witt and the Respected Members of the House Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee

Today is a wonderful day for Oregon.

Your review of HB 3012 truly represents the beginning of an outstanding opportunity for what we believe is one of the most treasured parts of our heritage as Oregonians; the magnificent salmon that return each year to the sparkling waters of our state.

These amazing fish represent tenacity and courage...and a fierce will to triumph against overwhelming odds. These are the same traits the people of Oregon have passed down through generations and why we take such pride in this majestic state we call home.

Under the guidance of your committee and our legislature, the Oregon Hatchery Research Center Board was constituted to represent a true cross-section of Oregon, different walks of life and opinion...strong individuals all. As this board tirelessly vetted our state's hatchery science needs, that tremendous diversity became our greatest strength. We now stand united in our support of the research plan you are considering for a long-term funding path.

Instead of cobbling together various parts and pieces subject to the variables of our economy (and narrowly focused stop and start funding opportunities), HB 3012 provides the financial stability that allows us to laser focus on the most critical hatchery questions our state needs answered, (both for the sake of our fisheries and the legal challenges presented in our court systems). The detailed OHRC Research Plan presents a solid map to answering these questions, with clear checks, balances, and reporting targets. Our outstanding Oregon State University and ODWF science team rolled up their sleeves in earnest to work alongside our board as we jointly developed a highly prioritized research strategy. The science itself is extraordinary and dramatic, having literally come light years in the last decade and many lifetimes since 1939, when Oregon's wonderful Dr. Willis Rich developed theories that form the baseline for much of our modern research. The plan also requires two essential components, coupling focused lab work with a dedicated ground-level (in the field) effort. This research will enable us to vigorously protect our wild runs while continuing hatchery inputs that are so integral to the people of Oregon and our world renowned resource economy.

As an economic investment, there could not be a better one...with a better return for the people of Oregon. To their tremendous credit...they have always invested to protect what they hold most dear. This work, though...goes far beyond economics and speaks directly to our hearts. These fish are quite simply an integral part of our souls and much of the reason we so love this special place.

We cannot downplay the difficult challenges we face as we move forward in this work, and as a young man there was someone I greatly admired who had a grand answer to that thought. He saw every challenge Oregon faced as an opportunity, and never a cause for despair. That man was Governor Tom McCall, and I'd like to think if he were here today he'd call this bill *our greatest opportunity*.

I know for myself and each member of my board...we are honored to stand with you as we face this challenge and turn it into our greatest opportunity.

Thank you for your vision and your outstanding dedication to our state and our fisheries.

All the best, always;

Cam Parry
OHRC Board Chairman