

*Dear Joint Ways and Means Committee Members,*

*Please support SB 247 and the nominal fee increases it contains.*

*Please do not cut ODFW's Fish Water Program or assistant district biologists.*

*As long as fish need water, Oregon will need these critical ODFW programs and staff. ODFW staff are involved in virtually every water allocation and reallocation decision in the state.*

*These are essential capacities that must be maintained regardless of the budget climate at ODFW and regardless of whether fee increases or increased general fund appropriations occur.*

*This is simply NOT the time to be divesting of expertise and capacity in water at any level of state government.*

*Please place my comments in the OLIS record.*

*Thank you for your consideration.*

*Frederick Cady*