

Dear Joint Ways and Means Committee Members,

Please support SB 247. The increases in fees are so nominal compared to benefits of being able to hunt and fish in fish in our state. I have been fishing for 35 + years and I feel lucky to be able to, but also I appreciate the fisheries management that allows us to continue our angling opportunities. It costs money to have and manage those programs so please don't think twice about tiny increases in license fees! Please support the bill and don't cut key positions – especially district Bios and positions in the water program.

Without water in the rivers, we won't need to worry about fish or licenses – water is number one priority; especially now in this drought year. We need an army of qualified people to enforce regulations and protect in stream flows and ODFW's Fish Water Program is part of that army. This is simply NOT the time to be divesting of expertise and capacity in water at any level of state government.

Please don't cut ODFW's Fish Water Program or assistant district biologists.

Please place my comments in the OLIS record.

Thank you

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