

Date: March 9, 2017

**To: The Honorable Brian Clem, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources**

**House Concurrent Resolution 14
Shannon Hurn, Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife Programs
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**

On behalf of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, I would like to thank you for hearing House Concurrent Resolution 14, which recognizes Tom Rumreich for his contributions to Oregon Fisheries. Director Melcher is unfortunately unable to attend the hearing today, but he would like to express his sincere appreciation to Rep McKeown, Sen Roblan, Rep Boone, Rep Gomberg and Rep Smith for their efforts in developing this resolution.

Tom Rumreich served for thirty-seven years as a Salmon Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) biologist for the Department. Tom started with the program at its inception, and built a program in the Coos-Coquille-Tenmile District from the ground up that has been a model for outdoor education and community involvement.

Tom received many honors and awards during his career, but one that is very meaningful was his recognition in 2015 for having educated over 100,000 students thru the STEP program. I can tell you from having worked as a fish biologist in Coos County with Tom, that I do not question the accuracy of that number. It is the only location I have worked where you can ask any child that lives in that the community what a salmon is and most will describe for you in detail the life-cycle of a salmon, and why clean water and healthy fisheries are important for all of us.

Thank you for your time today.

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