

**Date: February 2, 2017**

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

**House Bill 2266**

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Good morning Chair Clem and members of the Committee. We appreciate the opportunity to discuss House Bill 2266 with you today. HB 2266 would allow unexpended and unobligated funds to remain in the Oregon Hatchery Research Center (OHRC) Fund, and allows the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to receive gifts, grants, bequests, endowments or donations for deposit into the Hatchery Construction Fund.

In the 2015 Legislative Session, Oregon Law Chapter 734 was approved that created the OHRC Fund and the Hatchery Construction Fund for a period of 10 years. Language in the current law calls for unexpended or unobligated funds within the OHRC Fund at the end of each fiscal year to be transferred to the Hatchery Construction Fund.

The OHRC Board, created in the 2013 Legislative Session (Oregon Laws 2013 Chapter 664) developed a Research Plan for priority research to be conducted through the OHRC. This Research Plan, which is expected to be implemented over a period of more than 10 years, is now being funded by the OHRC Fund. The OHRC Board and ODFW recognize that there are likely to be other important research areas to explore in the near future besides the three discreet projects currently identified in the OHRC Research Plan. HB 2266 is intended to modify language in Oregon Laws 2015 Chapter 734 to provide an opportunity to accrue funds in any year that can allow for additional research to be funded.

House Bill 2266 allows ODFW to accept other fund sources into the Hatchery Construction Fund. Language would be added that allows ODFW to receive gifts, grants, bequests, endowments or donations for deposit into the Hatchery Construction Fund. This provides a source of funds to improve, upgrade or replace current coastal hatchery facilities in order to incorporate new technologies or to make physical improvements to the hatchery facilities, as called for in the current law.

House Bill 2266 seeks to optimize the amount of research that can be funded by the revenues generated under OHRC Fund Law (Oregon Laws 2015 Chapter 734) by allowing unexpended or unobligated funds to remain in the fund across fiscal years. HB 2266 also provides new avenues for directing monies into the Hatchery Construction Fund. These two changes are expected to allow ODFW to better achieve the mission of the Oregon Hatchery Research Center, while still developing funds for coastal hatchery improvements.

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