

# Early Fishing, Inc.

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Chair Brad Witt  
House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources

RE: HB 3150

Dear Chair Witt, Representative David Brock-Smith and Members of the Committee:

We have been fishing guides and outfitters in the Southern Oregon area for over 40 years and have seen many programs come and go with regard to fisheries, hatcheries, STEP programs and the like. While there are always controversies with each program, we can say, through our experience, we have only seen a decrease in the numbers of fish in our rivers, streams, and tributaries – especially after the hatch box programs were discontinued. The incubation box program has been highly successful in Canada and Norway without impacting wild stocks.

Local fishing groups are incredibly involved with ODFW to help with programs such as this and would also be able to involve local children through extended educational programs such as "Salmon in the Classroom". This opportunity, during the age of Covid, is essential for involving children in the outdoors and developing an interest in science.

Our small, rural communities have suffered from the economic impact due to decreased fishing success and opportunities as well as Covid. This is a chance to provide optimism and an economic, trickle down effect, that will greatly benefit small, rural communities.

We encourage you to please support HB 3150. Thank you for your time and service.

Sincerely,

Gary & Val Early