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March 28, 2024

Dear Chair Golden and Members of the Senate Committee  
on Natural Resources and Wildfire,

On behalf of the Roseburg Area Chamber of Commerce, and the businesses, organizations and individuals we represent throughout Roseburg and Douglas County, we urge you to support SB 512. The Rock Creek Hatchery (RCH) has long been a community success story. As may you know, the 2020 Archie Creek Fire was devastating. However, even this catastrophic event does not dissuade the overwhelming community support for the restoration and sustainability of the RCH.

RCH has played a vital role in our rural community's economy. Its success has supported fishing and recreational experiences for residents and visitors, alike. Visitors travel from all over the country and around the world to fish in Douglas County. RCH's steelhead release endeavors don't just contribute to the viability of our local fishing industry, but also many small local businesses such as lodging, restaurants and retail shops. All of which employ our citizens.

The economic benefit is the least of the RCH's contributions. RCH has helped maintain and strengthen fish populations in the Umpqua Basin, supported research and monitoring of the population, educational opportunities for area youth, employment opportunities, cultural preservation and conservation efforts for the protection of our precious natural resources.

The proposal by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) for investment in the RCH and the joint hatchery proposal with the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians on the South Umpqua River near Canyonville are important to our rural community, the people who live, work and play here and the state of Oregon. Passage of SB 512 is imperative to the Umpqua hatchery infrastructure proposal.

We respectfully request your support of SB 512. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

ROSEBURG AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
DOUGLAS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Debra L. Fromdahl, IOM  
President & CEO



*To advocate for and be the voice of the business community in the greater Roseburg area.*

*To strengthen, enhance and protect our members through political advocacy, economical development, community promotion and member programs and services.*