

Hello,

My name is Rob Chadeayne and a life-long resident of Bristol. I am writing to strongly request that the funding for the Kensington Fish Hatchery be reinstated in the current fiscal budget. I am a father of 2 children. I work as a Science teacher to 6<sup>th</sup> graders in Glastonbury and I am an avid angler. I don't often get involved with politics but in this case there are so many reasons for me to share my thoughts.

In my classroom over the past 8 years I have participated in the Salmon in Schools program run by the Connecticut River Salmon Association. It is a bright spot in my year seeing the faces of my students, who live right on the CT River, when they not only learn that fish hatch from eggs, but actually see them hatch. I enjoy the responsibility they show as they check on their progress each day for the 4 months we have them. And I could not create a better hands-on, real world applied Life Science lesson than the one that happens when we spend a day at the Salmon River State Park in Colchester. The kids not only release the salmon, attempting to reverse an unintended environmental catastrophe of the past, but they experience the complete interdependence of the rest of the organisms in the ecosystem, while looking at the trees, insects and flowing water, rather than pages in a text or an online video. That would all go away without the Kensington hatchery providing the salmon eggs that are the focal point of it all.

I also personally enjoy the fruits of Connecticut hatcheries, as I fly fish for salmon and trout in CT rivers and streams. I have purchased a fishing license every year for nearly 30 years and would gladly pay a little more if necessary. I also have purchased kayaks for both my children to help them experience nature up close and plant the seed for a life time enjoying the outdoors. I would like to tell them they live in a state that has the same respect and priority for environmental issues.

Surely, there have to be options available that would help make up the \$195,000 required for the hatchery. Or at the very least, the argument can be made that this small price tag buys many, far-reaching and frankly, priceless benefits. Can the same be said for every \$195K spent in this state? I thank you for considering the many irreplaceable benefits of such a small line item in the budget.

Sincerely,

Robert Chadeayne