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March 2, 2015

**Testimony to the Conservation and Development Appropriations Sub Committee  
for the March 2, 2015 Public Hearing on Hatchery Funding in the DEEP Budget**

I support the ongoing funding of the DEEP Kensington Hatchery and thereby the removal of the Kensington item under the DEEP Budget Reductions. This hatchery generates more revenue for our state than it costs and it provides unique benefits that would be lost forever.

Decreased fish stocking will lead to less angler hours realized, less tourism, less revenue for small and large businesses and therefore less and license and tax revenue for our state. The current stocking programs generate roughly 2 million angler hours and approximately \$60 million in revenue. Closing Kensington would eliminate less than \$196,000 in a multi-billion dollar budget, a poor economic policy.

The other two Connecticut hatcheries are operating at maximum capacity and would be unable to make up for the loss of Kensington's capacity and its unique equipment such as the chilled water capability and special well water. Closing the hatchery would end the brood stock salmon stocking program in CT, along with it some 7,000 Atlantic salmon fishing trips per year. CT is the only state where you can fish for Atlantic salmon in New England. Our successful Seeforellen Brown trout strain will be lost too as will the trophy brown trout and sea run trout program that generate significant tourist revenue.

There are 63 schools in CT that have chosen to use the Salmon-in-Schools, a national award winning environmental education program which has 6,414 registered students this year. Another approximately 9,000 students in over 100 schools will lose the Trout in a Classroom Program due to the need for the chilled water capability at Kensington. These two programs are strong contributors to the states science curricula.

Keeping Kensington Hatchery operational makes good sense economically, educationally and environmentally.

Sincerely yours,