

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY: HOUSE BILL 6047

AN ACT PROVIDING PROPER FUNDING FOR STATE HATCHERIES

SUBMITTED BY: EDWARD PARKER

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB 6047

The fish produced at the state's fish hatcheries and the fisheries programs developed by DEEP provide outdoor opportunities for tens of thousands of anglers annually resulting in over 2 million fishing trips for trout per year. Approximately \$50 million in expenditures occurs each year in Connecticut for licenses, fishing equipment, food, and transportation. In addition, 15,000 school children participate in the Atlantic salmon and trout in the classroom programs and hundreds of small businesses (bait and tackle shops) rely on sales of fishing gear.

It makes no sense to eliminate fishery programs that have a significant economic and educational benefits to so many Connecticut residents. In order to sustain these programs a long term solution is needed before any other budget cuts are made.

I urge the members of the Environment Committee to support this bill and request that you strongly advocate for its passage in the house and senate.