

To: Conservation and Development Appropriations Subcommittee

From: Timothy Pindell, 77 Wauregan Road, Canterbury, CT 06331

(phone: 860.546.6637)

RE: Testimony for Kensington Fish Hatchery Funding

I ask the appropriations committee to reinstate the \$195,000 needed to run the Kensington Hatchery. As an avid, and passionate fly fisherman, licensed in CT for at least the past 25 years, member of Trout Unlimited, and a recent retiree, I literally spend every hour possible in the pursuit of trout and salmon (99 percent is catch and release). I travel to many CT waters from east to west, often camping at state campgrounds. I greatly enjoy CT's fall salmon stocking program and feel it would be a terrible loss to close the Kensington Hatchery, as it is the only one suitable for raising them. For the modest operating cost, it would be tragic to lose the past investment in this facility – one that has already been purchased with state funds.

The loss of the hatchery will also negatively affect local businesses that supply hooks, fly-tying materials and other tackle specific to salmon fishing. These businesses, of course, pay taxes to CT.

The Kensington Hatchery also provides the eggs/fingerlings to the Trout-in-the-Classroom and Salmon-in-the-Classroom programs throughout many of CT's schools. These valued programs could be lost without the hatchery.

Please do everything you can to save this important and unique facility.

Thank you,

Timothy Pindell